GLADSTONE

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NO. 247
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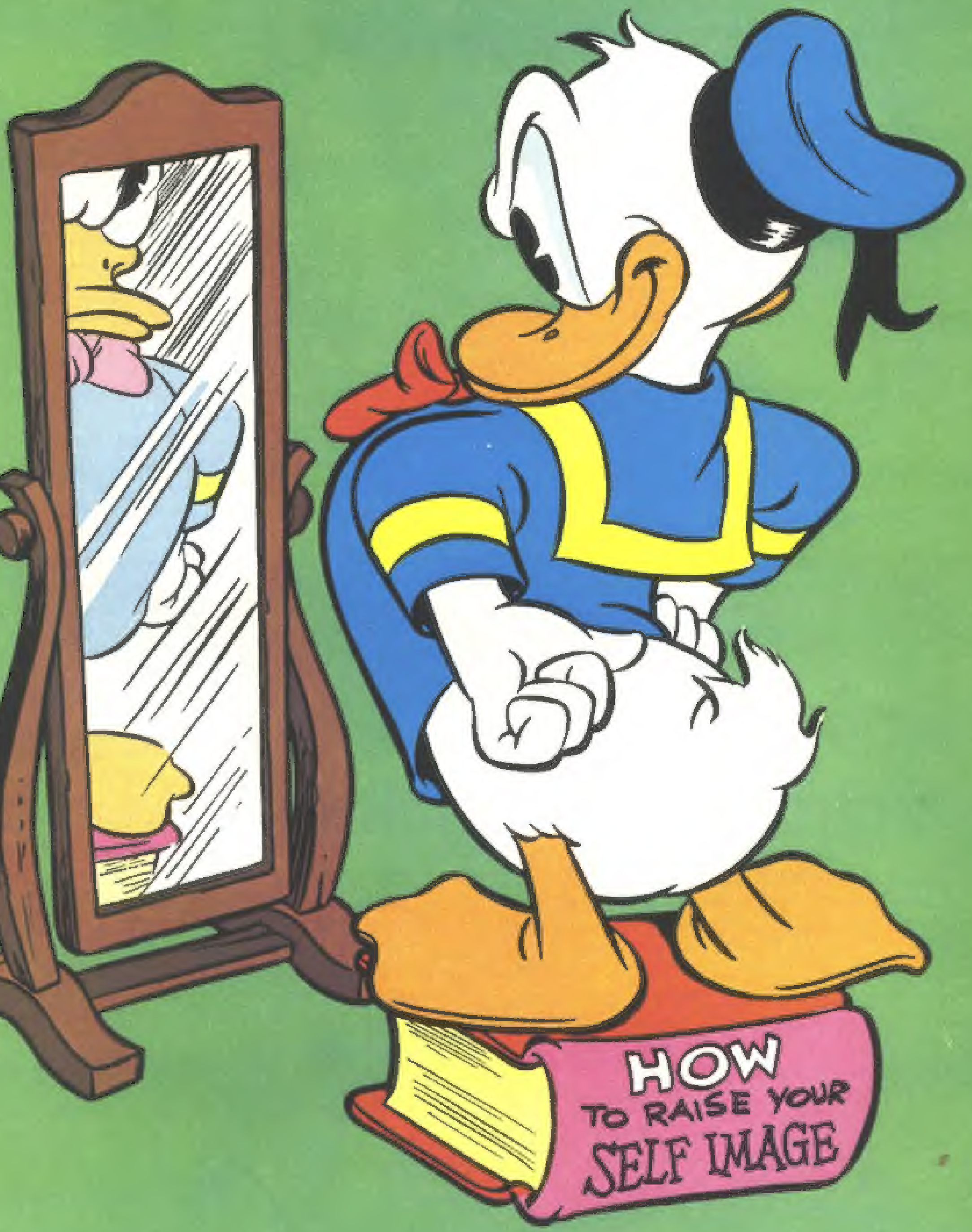
WALT DISNEY'S

Donald Duck



A GANDER AT GLADSTONE

P.O. BOX 2206, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85252

THE first few issues of a new comic book title represent a time of utter horror to editors. There hasn't been enough time for any of your letters of comment to arrive at our offices, you see. While this might not seem like the end of the world to you, it is nonetheless a trying time as the letters page has to be filled with something and the person responsible for filling it is the editor.

Faced with this dilemma, different editors will resort to different tactics to avoid such an unpleasant chore. A perennial favorite is to foist the duty onto the assistant editor, which is how I ended up writing this page.

Fortunately, I'm no fool. Instead of a weighty essay on the plans and goals of our company, I'll just tell you a little bit about the behind-the-scenes work here at Gladstone: specifically, what we do to publish a story in English when its original language was Danish or Dutch.

The first step is to simply decide upon a story that we think you'll like. We have a large library of foreign Disney comics here at Gladstone which we periodically sift through for this purpose. Since we can't read other languages, choosing a good story is harder than it sounds.

Basically, we look at the art and try to figure out what is going on in the story. If the art looks good and the plot is interesting we can order the story from the Disney Studios in Burbank, or directly from the foreign licensee. (They're ordered by the code numbers which can be found in the lower left portion of the first panel.) And no, we can't just order everything. These stories cost money, too.

Disney provides us with photostats of the black and white art and an English translation of the original dialogue. Generally, the translations are rough and need a lot of polishing. (For example, the text doesn't flow but seems choppy, or Donald Duck doesn't quite sound like you would expect. In some cases we get the King's English and not good old American idiom.)

Bruce Hamilton
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Assistant Editor
Geoffrey Blum
Associate Editor
Michael McCormick
Art Director
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In any case, once the story has indeed proven to be suitable, and a new script has been written, it then goes to me to be lettered. So far I'm Gladstone's only letterer, but that will change in the future as the number of foreign stories we use increases. When I get the pages, the original foreign-language lettering is still in place, so I use white paint to remove the words, being careful to leave the caption boxes and balloons intact. Enlarged photostats are then made of the pages, minus words, and the new copies are returned to me. Now the actual lettering can be done.

Most letterers get to draw the balloons to fit the dialogue, but I have to do it the other way around. This can be quite a challenge and it requires that the script writer try to judge the amount of copy that will fit into a particular balloon. If we try to enlarge a balloon to fit in extra copy we might obstruct an important bit of art, and if we have to shrink a balloon if there is less dialogue, the art has to be redrawn to fill up the extra space. This can be done, but it's time consuming and sometimes far too noticeable.

Of course, things don't always go as planned and this is a constant source of controversy between the letterer and the script writer. Sometimes I can change the dialogue and convince the writer that it was really necessary. Other times it means war. In those cases he'll try to convince me that a particular line of dialogue is absolutely essential to the story, and sometimes I'll agree, reluctantly, and make art corrections to accomodate it. Sometimes the matter is decided two falls out of three.

Technically, I letter on a vellum overlay, using drafting pens. When I've finished the script I paste it into place over the appropriate balloons and the pages go back to be shot one last time, reduced to comic-page size. I then go over the story once more to check for paste-up lines and film flaws, and my job is finally done.

From here, the pages go to be colored, but I don't do that and, anyway, I've written my quota for this issue, so I won't tell you about it. Our resident colorist is Mike McCormick and maybe someday he'll be drafted to write a text page and will fill you in on that end.

Enjoy the book, everyone!

—John Clark

Credits

Front cover by Daan Jippes.

Donald Duck (poet story), story and art by Volker Reiche, scripted by Geoffrey Blum, lettered by John Clark, colored by Ken Fedunlewicz.

Donald Duck, (two-page short), written by Bob Karp, drawn by Al Taliaferro, colored by Michael F. McCormick.

Donald Duck in "Daisy's Double," art by Tony Strobl.

Donald Duck (cowboy story), written and illustrated by Carl Barks.

Walt Disney's **Donald Duck**, Vol. 1, No. 247, November 1986. **Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Scottsdale, AZ and additonal mailing offices.** Published monthly by Gladstone Publishing, Ltd., P.O. Box 2206, Scottsdale, AZ 85252. Copyright © 1986, 1963, 1949, 1940 by The Walt Disney Company. All rights reserved. Nothing herein contained may be reproduced without the written permission of The Walt Disney Company, Burbank, California. Annual subscription rate $9.00 for twelve issues, $11.00 Canadian and foreign, payable in U.S. funds. Printed in the U.S.A.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Donald Duck, P.O. Box 2206, Scottsdale, AZ 85252.

Donald Duck

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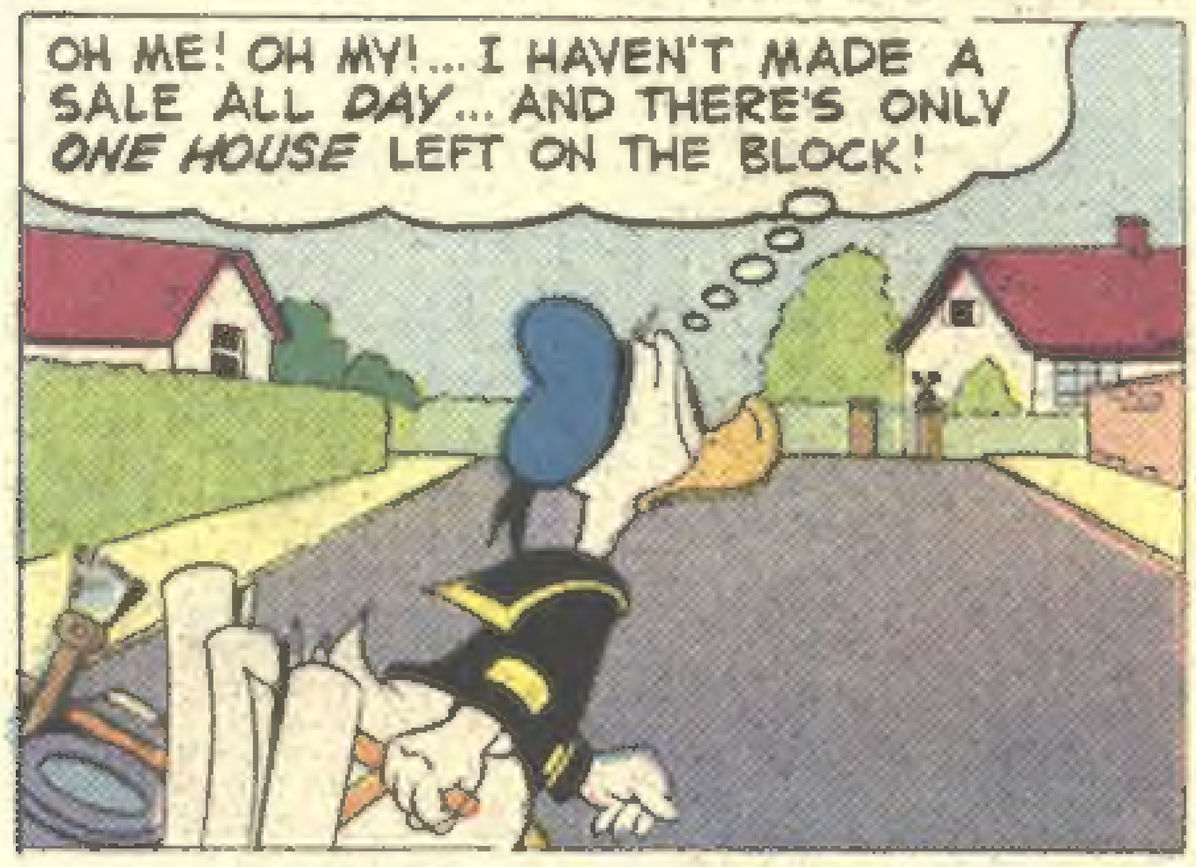
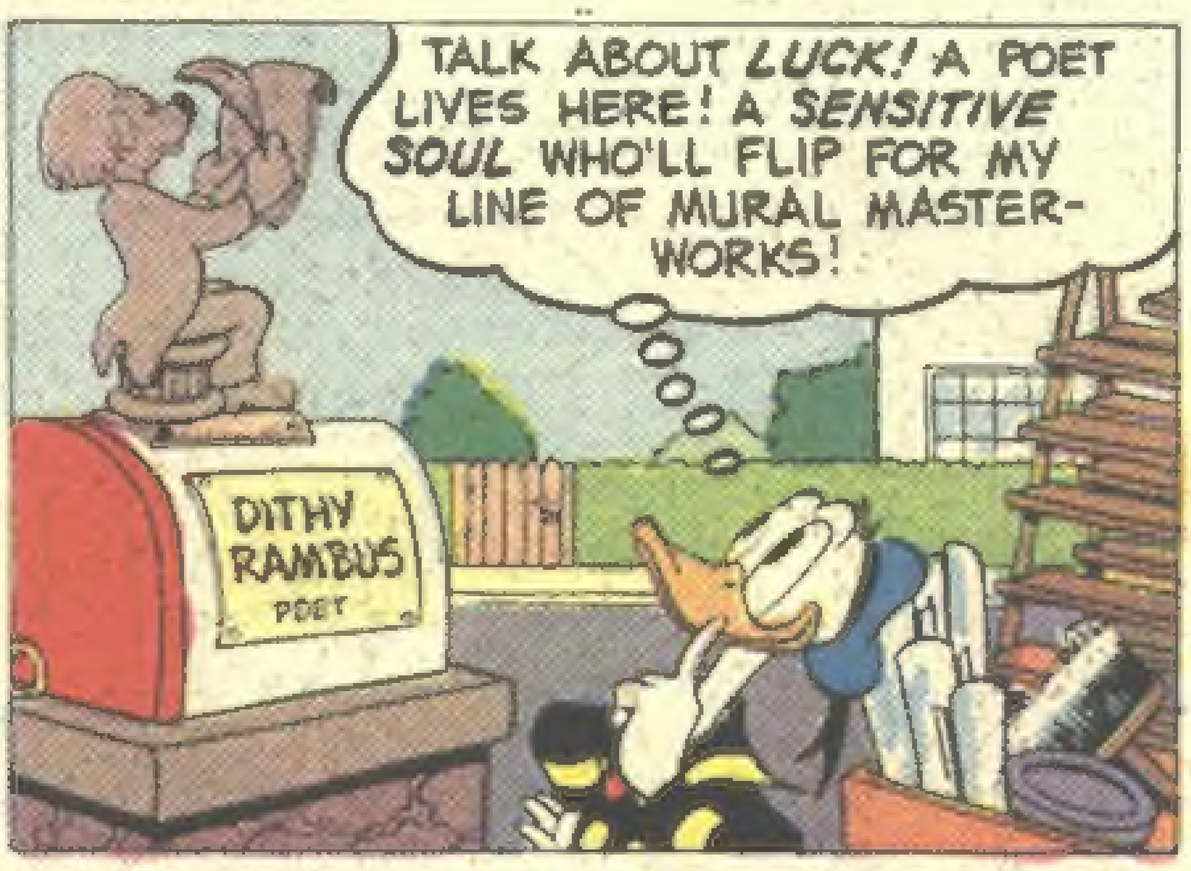
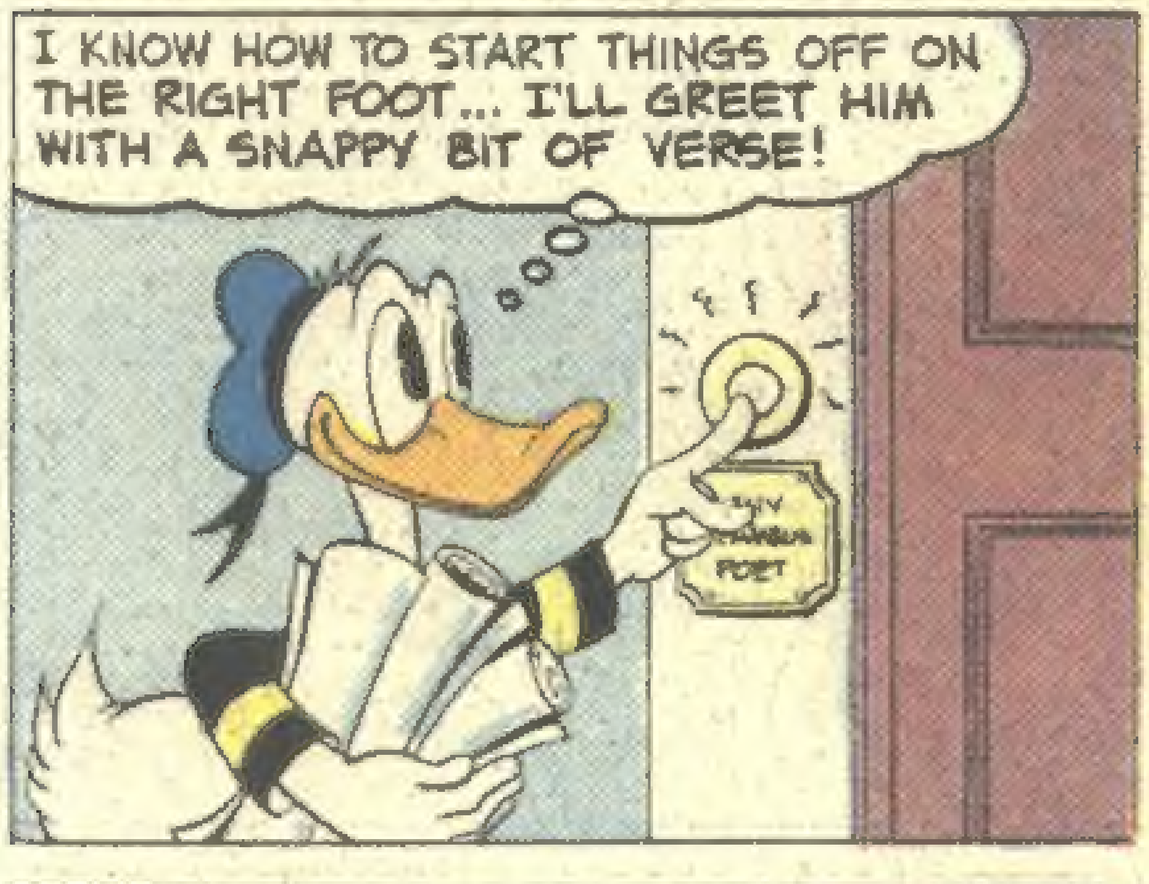
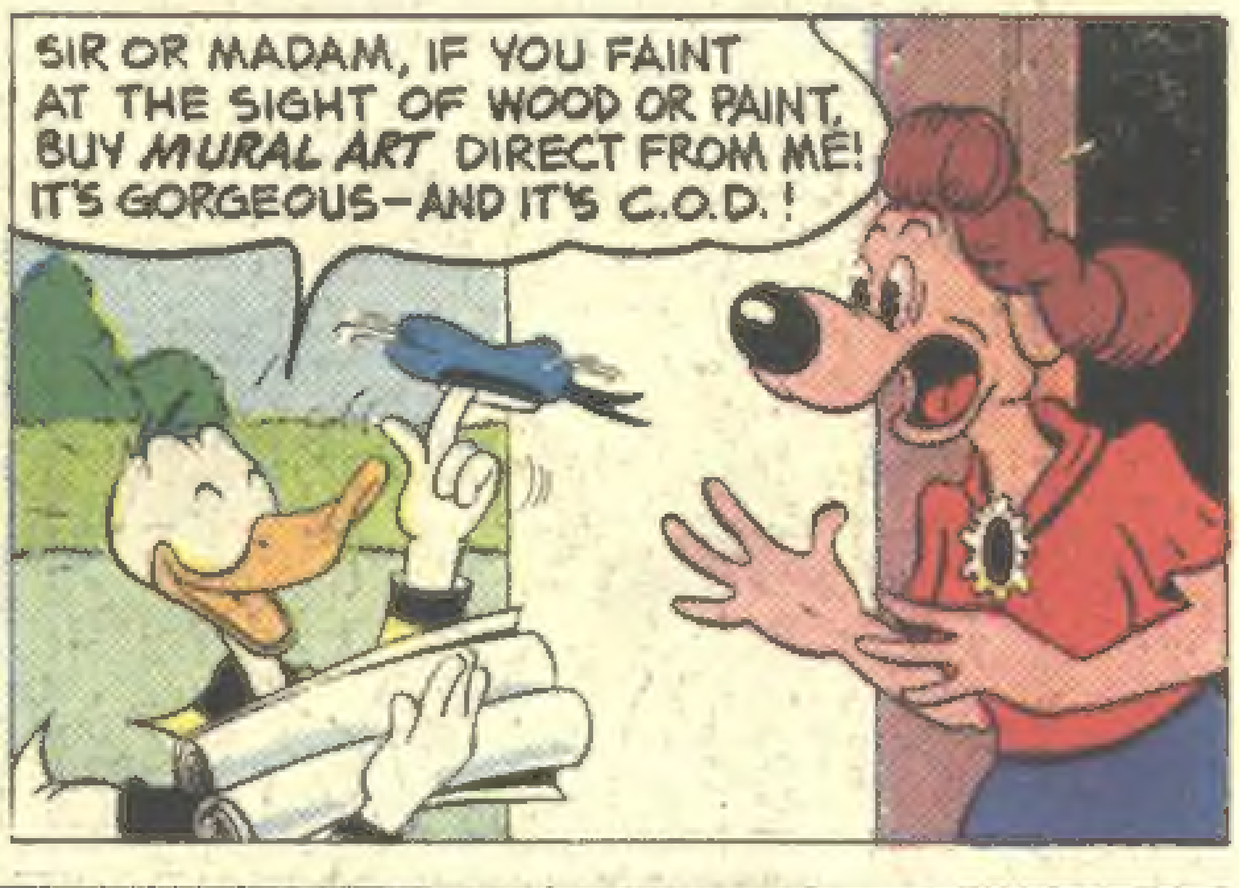
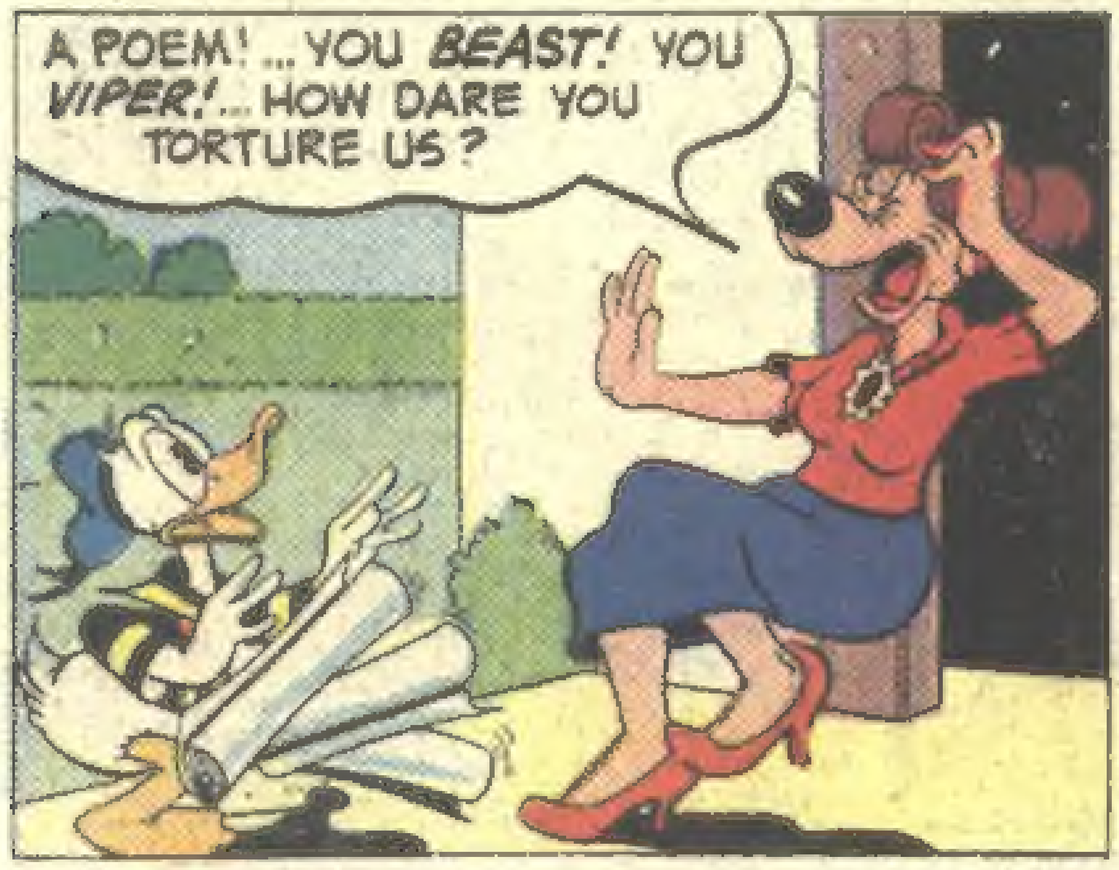
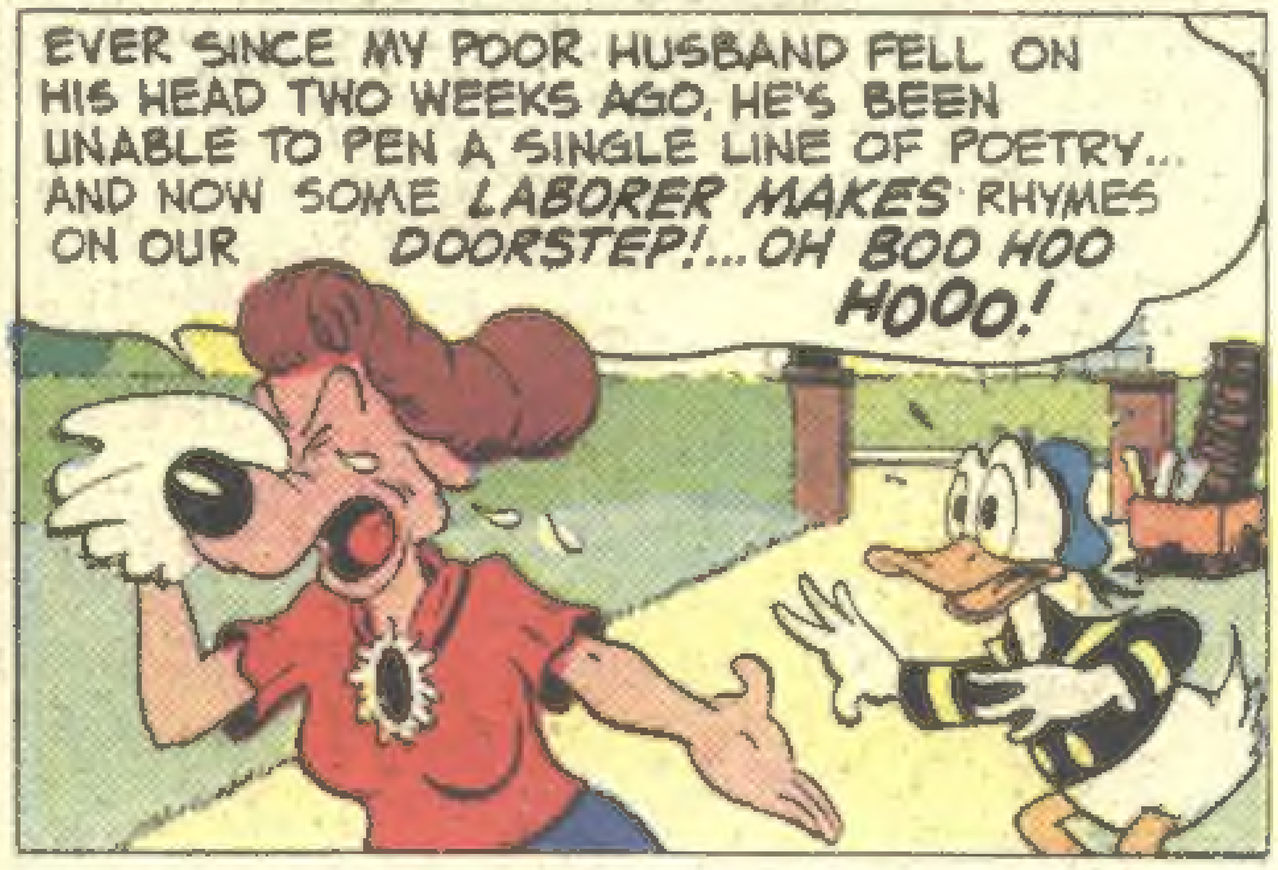











EVER SINCE MY POOR HUSBAND FELL ON HIS HEAD TWO WEEKS AGO, HE'S BEEN UNABLE TO PEN A SINGLE LINE OF POETRY... AND NOW SOME LABORER MAKES RHYMES ON OUR DOORSTEP!... OH BOO HOO HOOO!

B-BUT... I...

HIS FOUNT OF VERSE HAS RUN DRY... HIS STREAM OF INSPIRATION HAS *EVAPORATED!* SEE FOR YOURSELF!

THERE HE SITS! DITHY RAMBUS, B LIT., M.V., AND POET LAUREATE OF DUCKBURG! JUST *LOOK* AT HIM!

NOW ONLY VAPID VACUITIES ESCAPE HIS VAUNTED NOODLE! AND *YOU*... YOU COME PEDDLING *WALLPAPER!*

AND NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON, MADAM!

FOR WHAT COULD BE MORE SOOTHING TO A POET'S BATTERED SENSES THAN THIS *CHEERFUL WOODLAND SCENE?*

OR TAKE THIS TENDER PASTORAL, A *PAEAN* TO THE FLATLAND LIFE IN RURAL BROWN AND GREEN!

PERHAPS YOU HAVE SOMETHING THERE!

PUT THE PROBLEM IN MY HANDS AND LET YOURSELF BE GUIDED BY *PROFESSIONAL ADVICE!* JUST ONE PHOTO-MURAL WILL TRANSFORM THIS DINGY DUNGEON TO A POET'S PARADISE!

WHY STOP WITH ONE? PAPER THE *WHOLE STUDY!* BUT BE *QUICK* ABOUT IT, SO MY HUSBAND CAN WAKE TO THE SIGHT OF A MAJESTIC FOREST!

ME? ER... AH... YES, OF COURSE!

GULP! I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL HER SHE'S MY *FIRST* CUSTOMER!... I'VE NEVER PAPERED A WALL IN MY LIFE!

PHOTO-PALS

DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY HUSBAND! IF YOU DON'T BUMP INTO HIM,-HE'LL SLEEP UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME!

I'M GOING TO THE KITCHEN TO FIX YOU A SNACK!

OOPS!

DRAT! WHAT A *BUM* START! I BETTER WIPE THIS GOO OFF MY HANDS BEFORE SOMETHING GETS *DIRTY!*

AND *COVER* THIS SPOT WITH SOME EXTRA ROLLS OF PAPER BEFORE MRS. RAMBUS SEES IT!

NOW TO FIND A WORKBENCH! HMM... THAT *DESK* IS ABOUT THE RIGHT SIZE!

HAH! NOTHING TO IT!

EASY AS ROLLING OFF A LOG!

ONE SHEET OF FLYPAPER READY TO STICK! AND I THOUGHT THIS JOB WAS GOING TO BE *HARD!*

YEOWP!

CRASH!

GOOD THING THAT DIZZY RAMBLER *SLEEPS SOUNDLY!* I'D BETTER STOW THIS BUSTED LAMP... HE MAY HAVE BEEN *FOND* OF IT!

NOW BACK TO BUSINESS! *WHERE* WAS I GOING TO PUT THIS?

OH YEAH—OVER THE COUCH, SO HE CAN DALLY 'NEATH THE RUSTIC BOUGHS OF MY PINE FOREST!... HEH, HEH!

WHAT'S THIS? "*THE MUSE DESCENDING*" ...WHAT *NONSENSE!*

KRRR-

FOR A POET WHO'S LOST HIS ZIP, THIS CAN ONLY BE A *PAINFUL* REMINDER! *DOWN IT GOES!*

TSK! THEY JUST DON'T PAINT PICTURES LIKE THEY USED TO!

SMASH!!

GOOD THING THEY STILL MAKE STURDY *BROOMS!*... THIS ONE'S SURE WORKING *OVERTIME* TODAY!

ANYWAY, THE *WALL* IS CLEAR AND READY FOR MY MASTER-PIECE!

NOW WHAT'S HOLDING THINGS UP? THAT GLUE SHOULD STILL BE WET!

YANK!

GET OFFA THERE!!

R-R-RIP!

THE FURNITURE IN THIS PLACE IS SURE *SHODDY!* YOU'D THINK SUCH CULTURED PEOPLE WOULD OWN BETTER STUFF!

WELL, THAT'S *THEIR* LOOKOUT! I'M A *MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE*, NOT AN UPHOLSTERER!

TA-DAH! ONE WOODLAND SCENE, COMING UP!

I'VE LEARNED *MY* LESSON! THIS TIME I'LL WORK *AROUND* THE FURNITURE!

ODD!... THAT'S *NOT* HOW I HAD *IMAGINED* THIS WOULD END UP LOOKING!

MAYBE A FOREST ISN'T SUCH A HOT IDEA! LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIND SOMETHING WITH MORE *PIZAZZ*!...

...A *RACECAR*!... A RED AND YELLOW *BELCHFIRE SABRESLASH*!

HOT-CHA! NOW WE'RE BURNIN' RUBBER! WHY SHOULDN'T THE MODERN *ENGINE* INSPIRE THE MODERN *POET*!?!

ALREADY THE ROOM LOOKS *MUCH* LIVELIER! MR. RAMBUS AND HIS WIFE WILL BE PLEASED!

WUP!! WHO PUT THAT DOOR THERE?

WELL, I CAN'T LET *THAT* STOP ME!... THE RAMBUSES WILL JUST HAVE TO INSTALL *ANOTHER DOOR*!

I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE SOME MILK AND COOKIES!

KR-R-R-END!

NO!! STOP!! DON'T COME IN!!

NOW LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!... MY *MASTERPIECE*, TORN TO SHREDS!

MASTERPIECE? YOU CALL THAT GAUDY JEEP A MASTERPIECE? WHERE'S MY *FOREST*?

WELL... I...

UPSIDE DOWN! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!

SO *THAT'S* WHAT IS WRONG! I *THOUGHT* IT LOOKED A LITTLE FUNNY!

THIS RUBBISH COMES DOWN RIGHT *NOW!*

HOLD IT LADY! IT WON'T COME OFF LIKE THAT!

BUT THIS CAN OF *SOLVENT* WILL HAVE IT SLIPPING OFF IN A JIFFY!

LET'S SEE ... "*ACME THINNER— INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH!* ... *USE SPARINGLY!*" HMPH!

ACME INDUSTRIES HASN'T GOT *MADWOMEN* TO DEAL WITH! I'D BETTER SPRAY IT ON THICK BEFORE SHE GOES WILD!

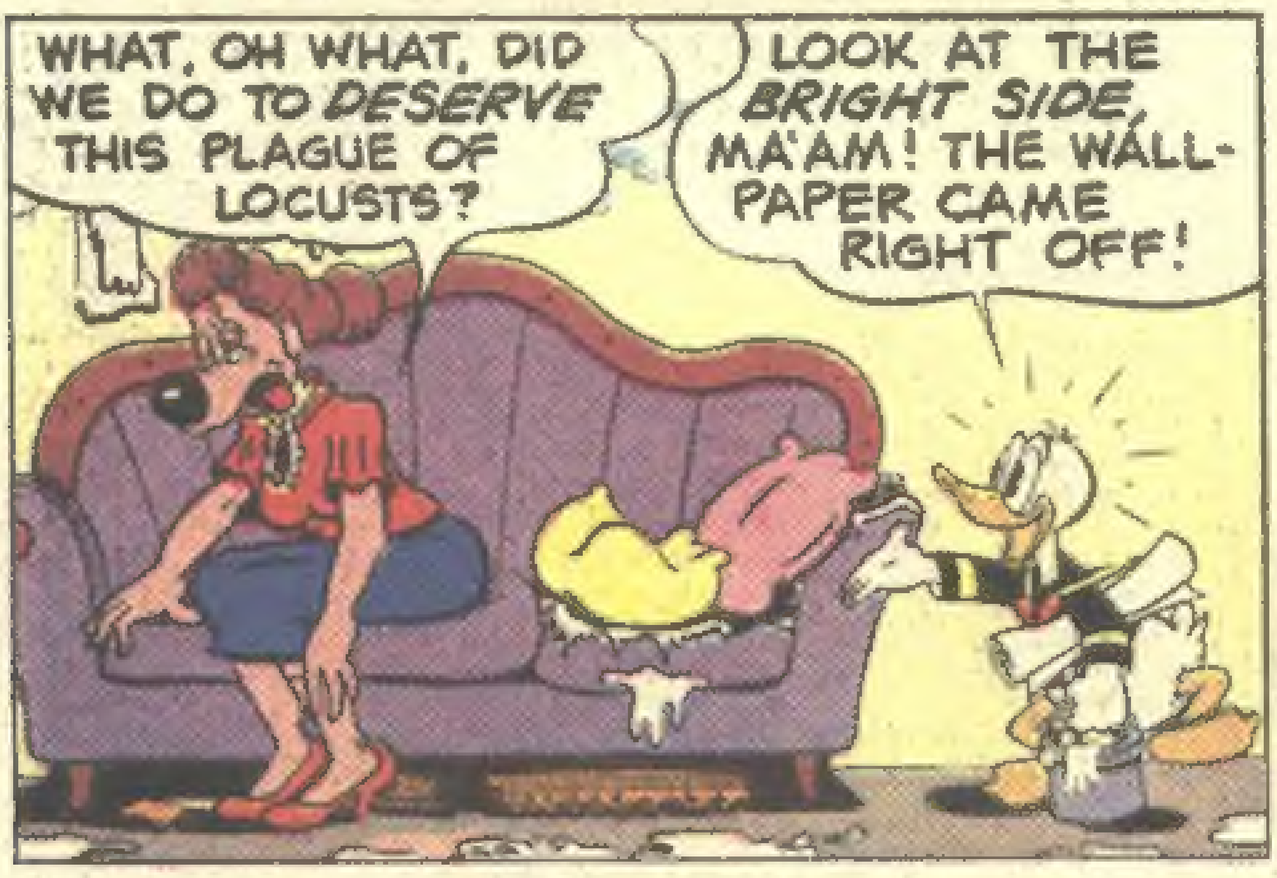
PSSSS!!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU?... THE PAPER'S DISSOLVING AWAY LIKE SUGAR!

YES!... AND SO ARE THE *BOOKS! EEEEK!*

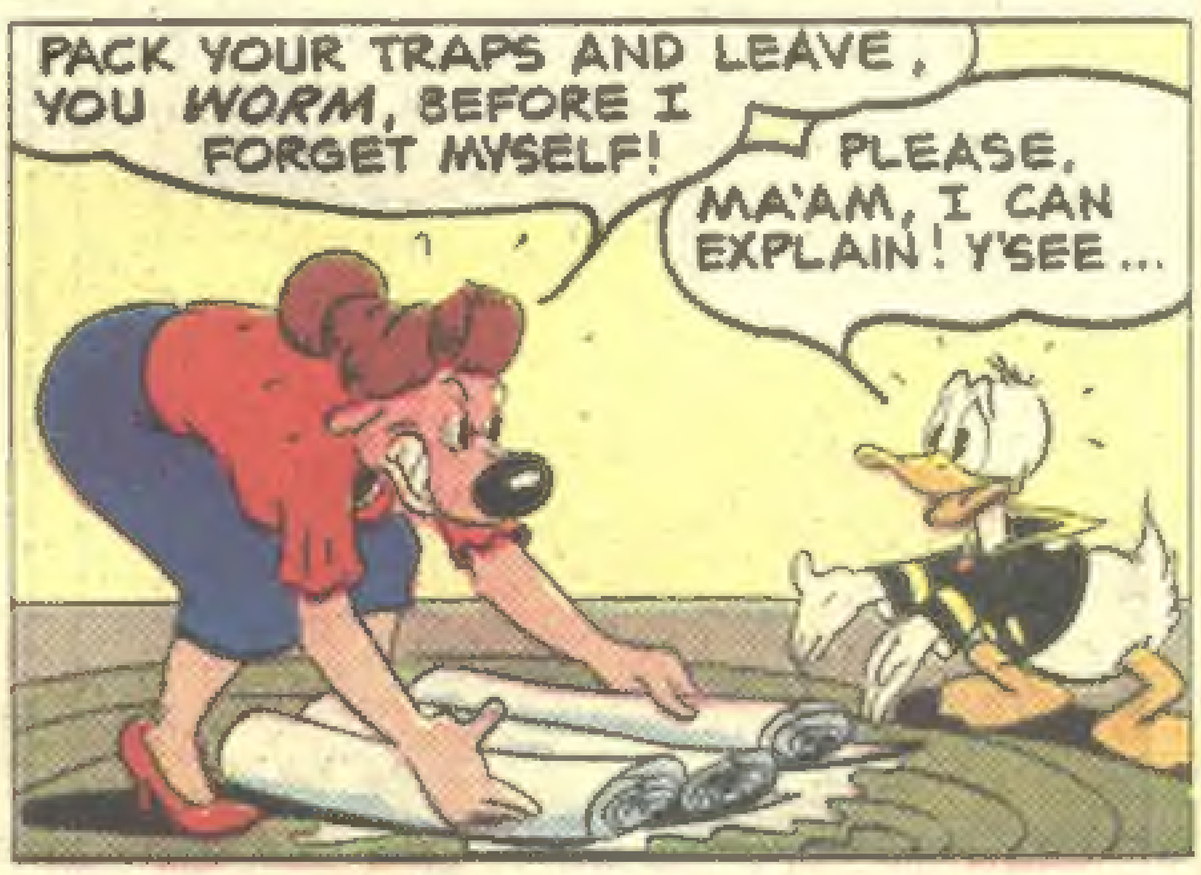
... AND MY DECORATOR DRAPES! AND...

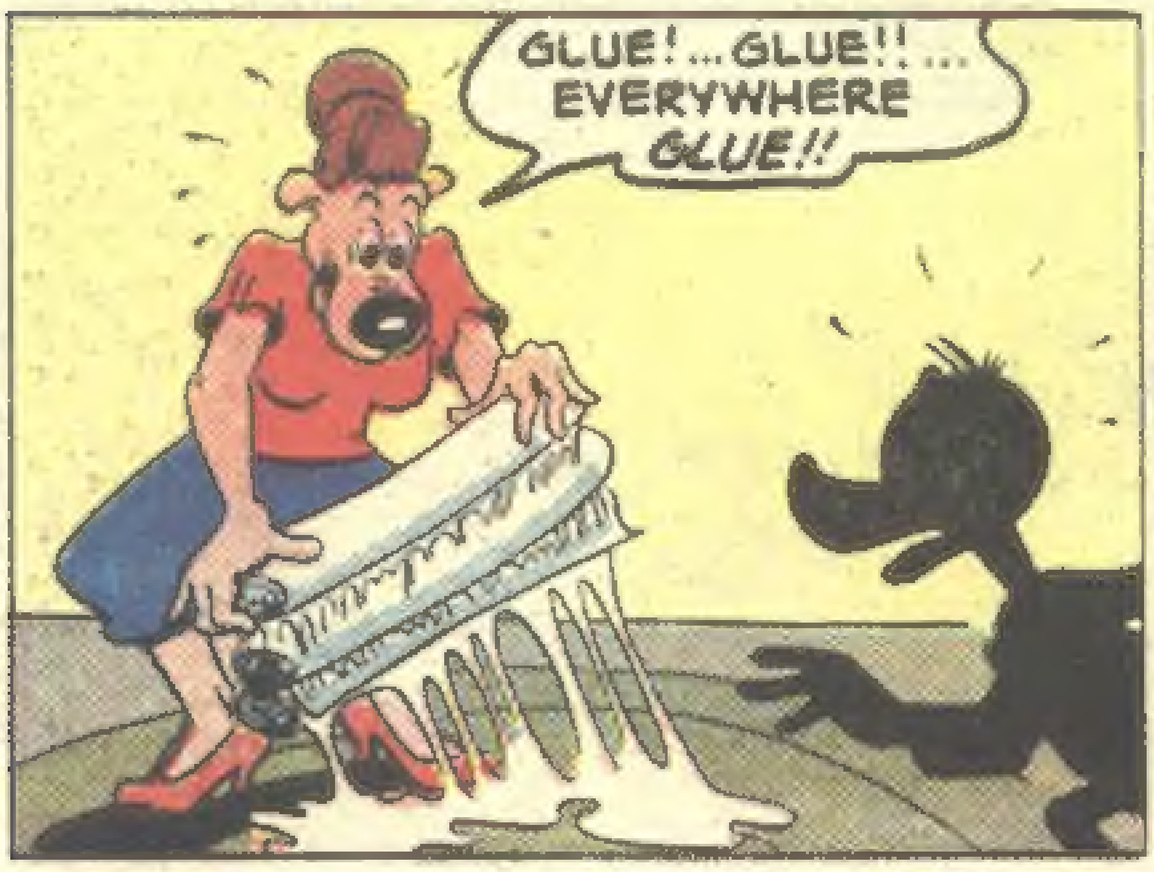
...AND MY HUSBAND'S PRICELESS RAY ACHEOAF COLLECTION!!

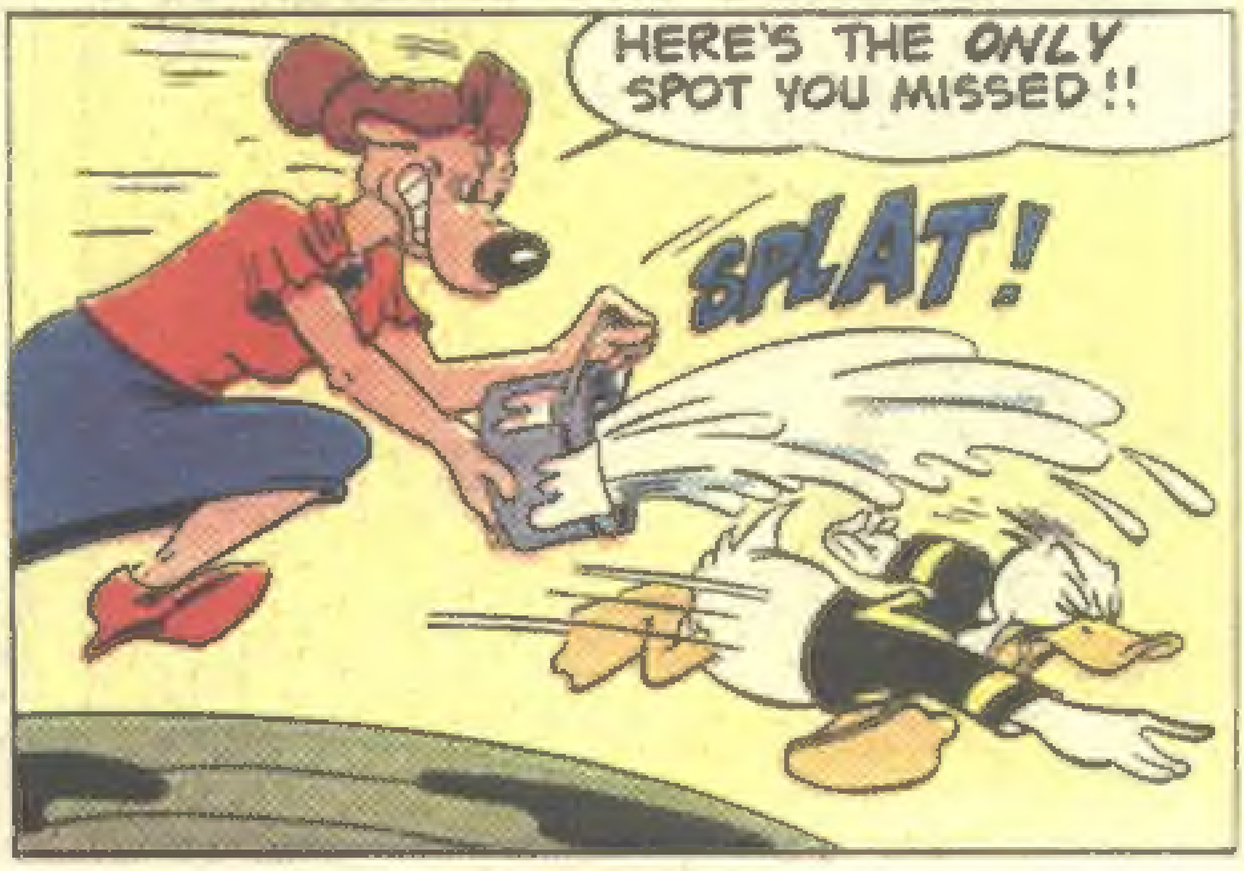

WHAT, OH WHAT, DID WE DO TO DESERVE THIS PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS?
LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, MA'AM! THE WALL-PAPER CAME RIGHT OFF!

AND WHAT'S THIS?
SPROING!

... AND THIS?


PACK YOUR TRAPS AND LEAVE, YOU WORM, BEFORE I FORGET MYSELF!
PLEASE, MA'AM, I CAN EXPLAIN! Y'SEE...


GLUE!...GLUE!!... EVERYWHERE GLUE!!


HERE'S THE ONLY SPOT YOU MISSED!!
SPLAT!

THAT STUFF *STICKS*, DOESN'T IT?

COME HERE!. I WANT TO *FINISH* THE JOB!

HELP!

COME HERE, I SAY!

AAAGH!

WOF!

URGH!

MY WORD! MY DOOM! *MY LIVING ROOM!!!*

WHAT CREATURE'S THIS, THAT BOLDLY FLEW... AND LANDED HERE, ALL FULL OF GLUE?

WHATTAYA MEAN, CREATURE?

MY SLUMBERS ARE DISPELLED, ALAS ...PRAY TELL ME HOW THIS CAME TO PASS!

BY WHAT TORNADO, WHAT CURSED LUCK... CAME THIS DESTRUCTION—AND THIS DUCK?

DITHY!

YOU'RE RHYMING, DITHY! YOU'RE *RHYMING!!* YOU'RE MAKING *LOVELY VERSES!*

THIS CLEVER YOUNG MAN HAS *SHOCKED* YOU FROM YOUR COMA! ONCE MORE YOUR CONSONANTS CLICK AND YOUR SYLLABLES SCINTILLATE!

IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE! THEY REALLY DO!

OUR *SAVIOR!* HOW CAN WE REPAY YOU?

HECK! IT WAS NOTHING!

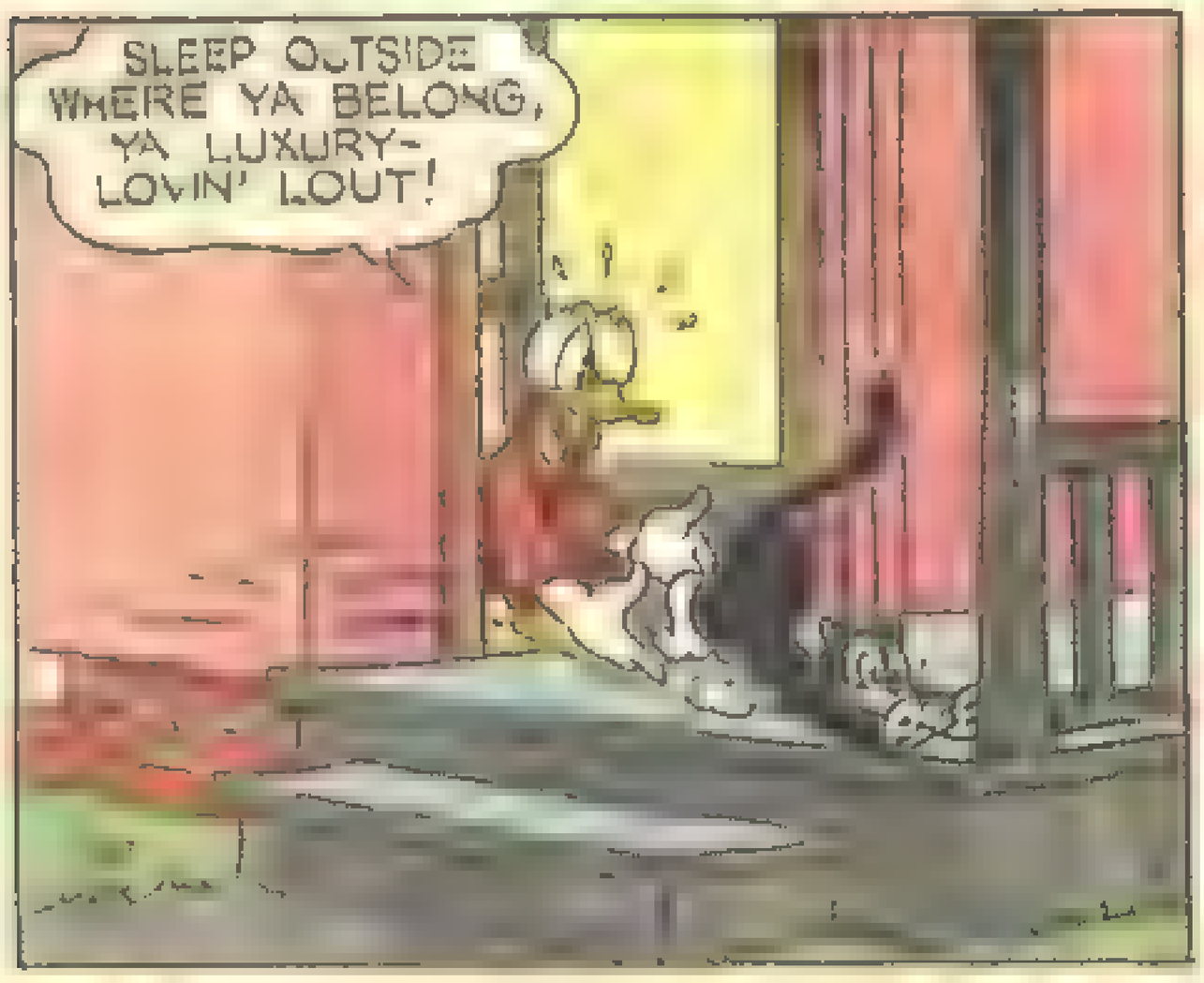
I *INSIST* YOU ACCEPT A SMALL TOKEN OF OUR GRATITUDE!

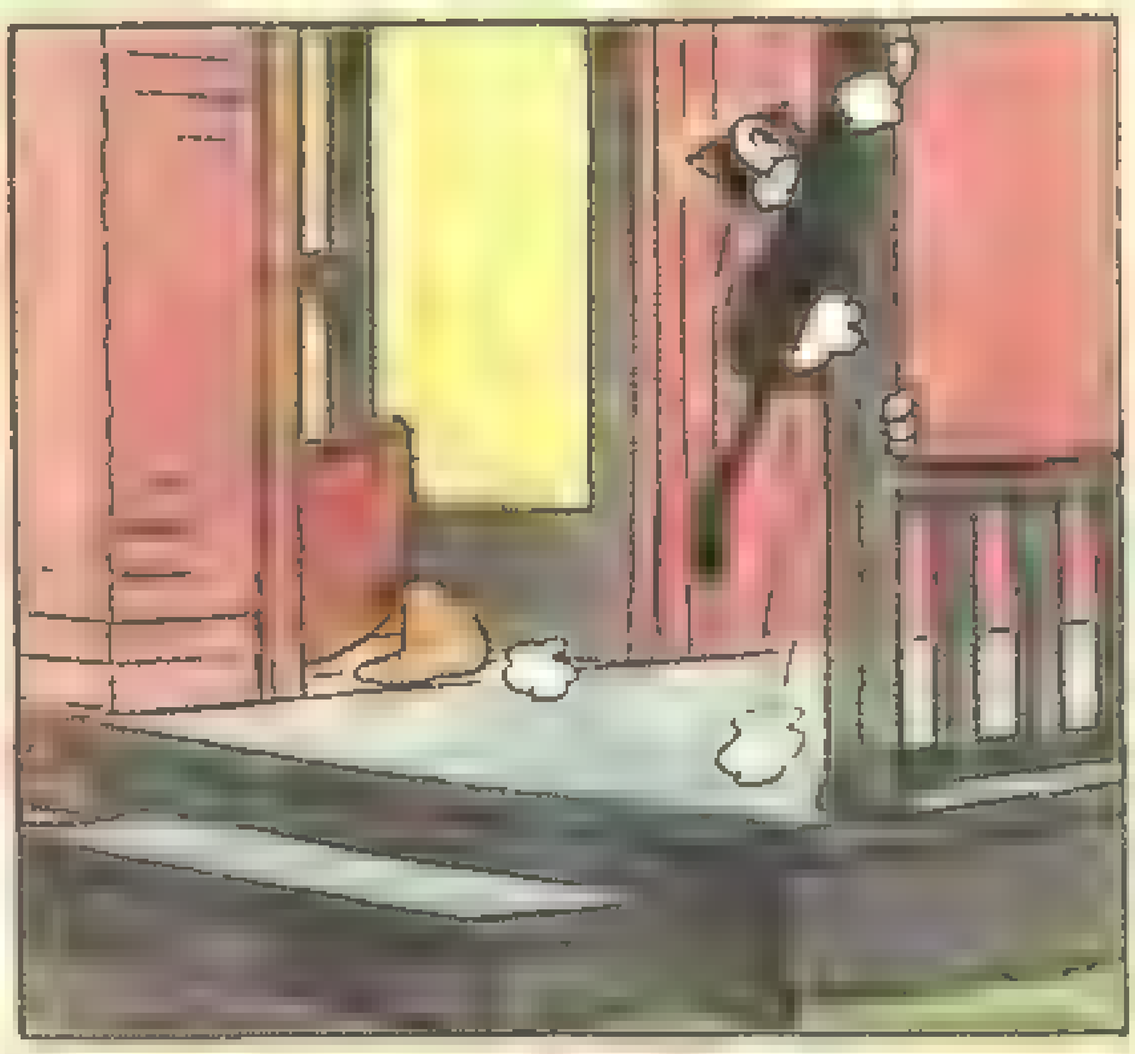
AND YOUR EXPENSE I'LL REIMBURSE...WITH MY COMPLETE COLLECTED VERSE!

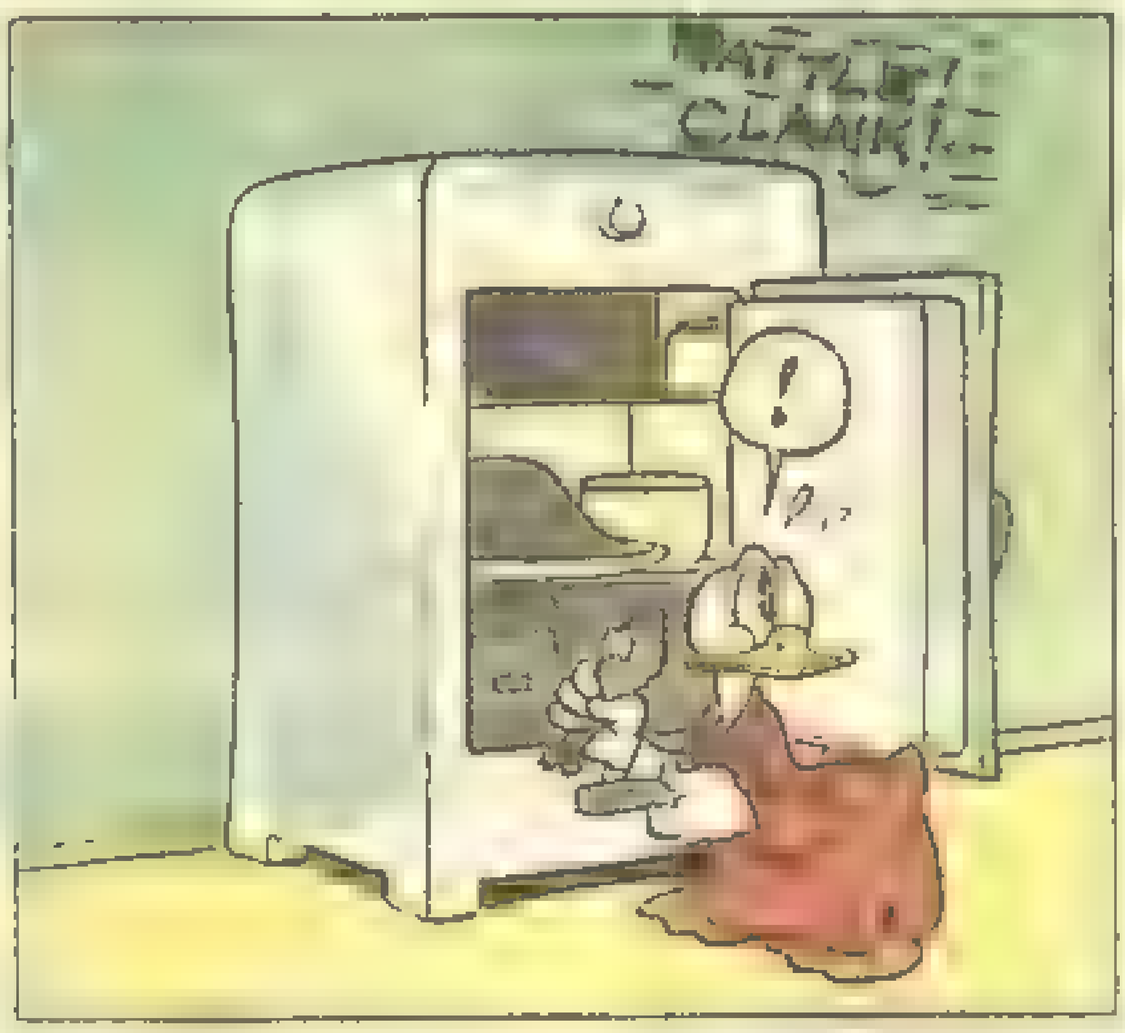
JUST LOOK AT BOTH THEIR SMILING FACES. I *KNEW* A RHYME WOULD TAKE ME PLACES!

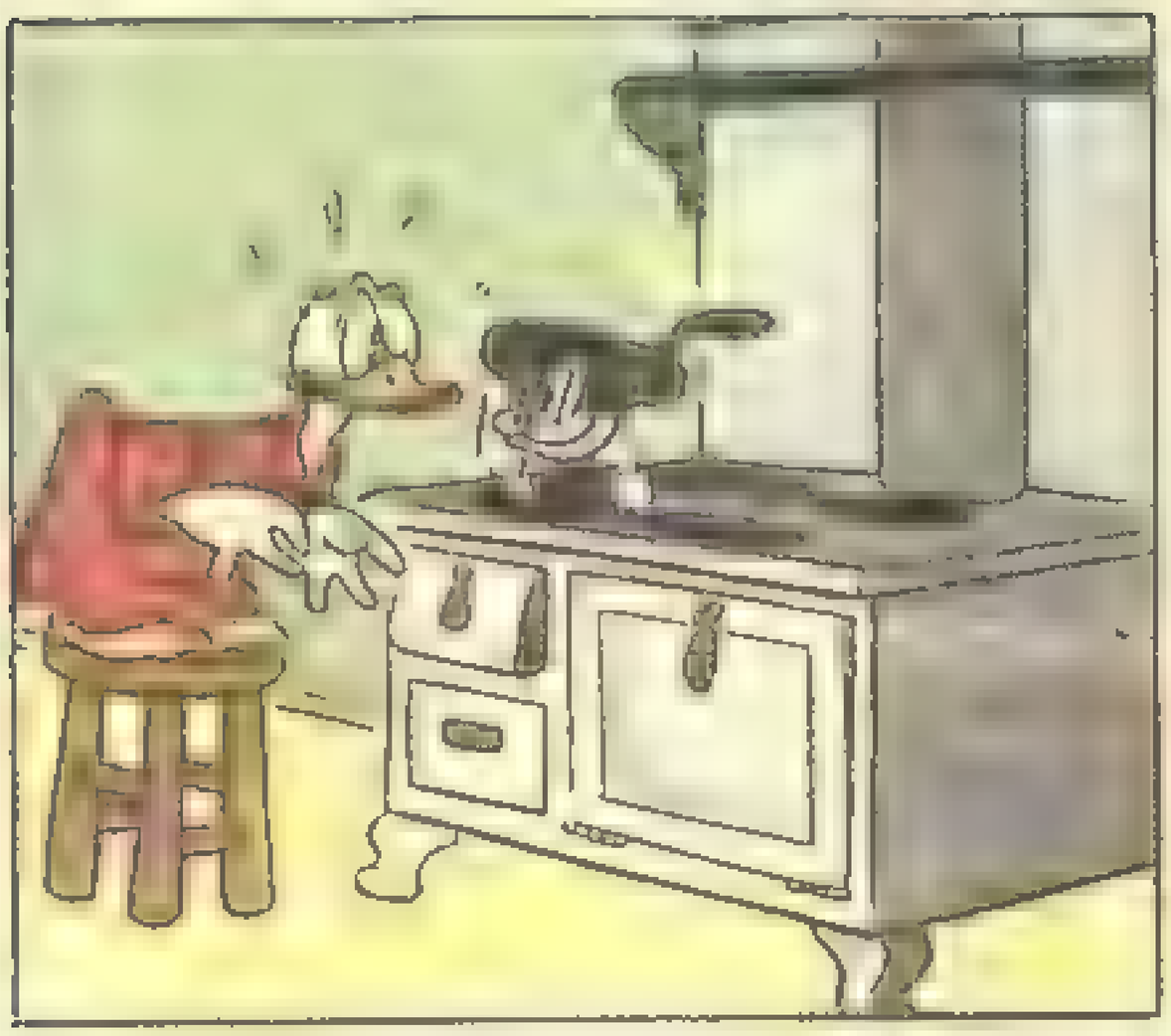
Walt Disney's

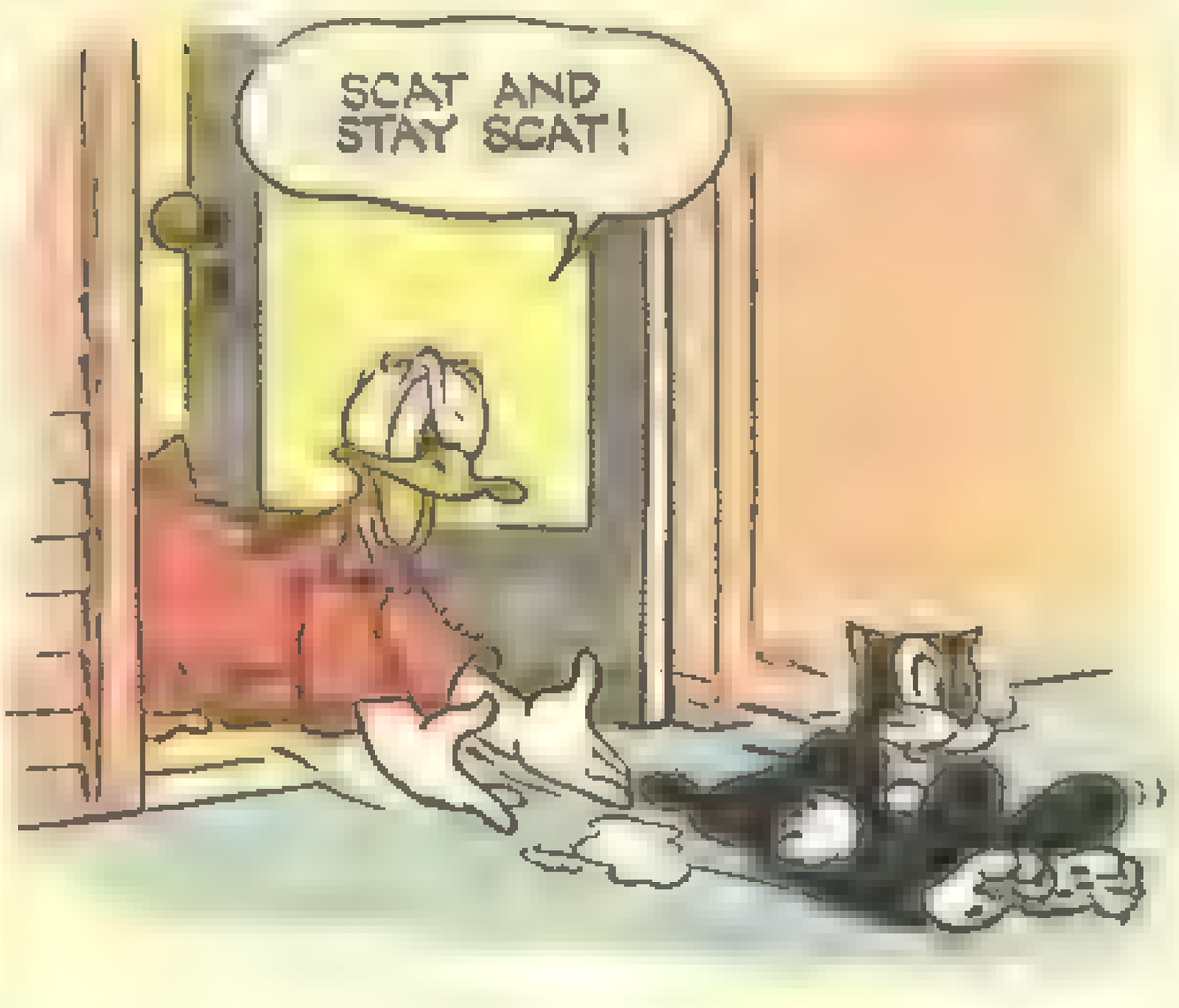
Donald Duck

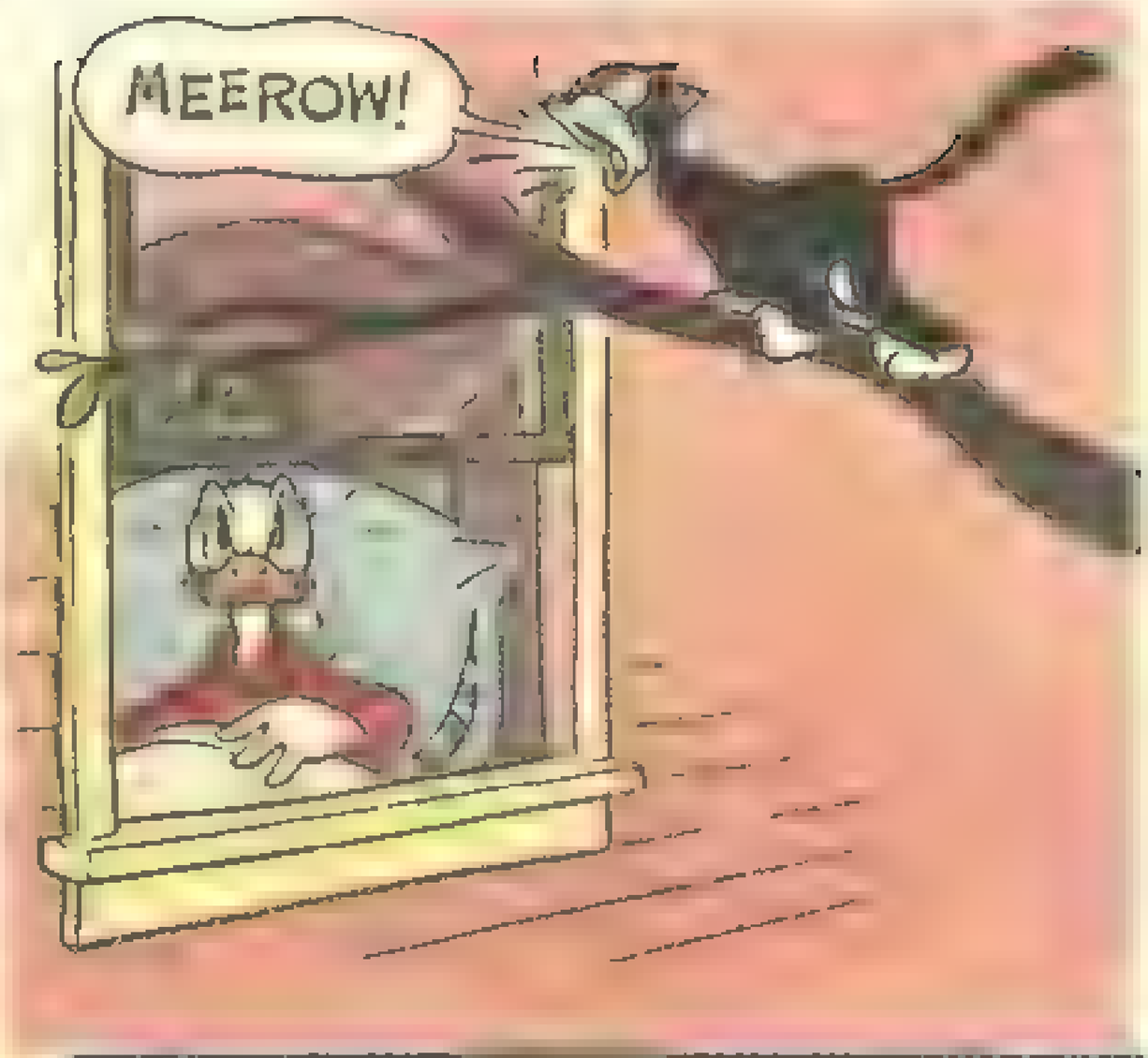


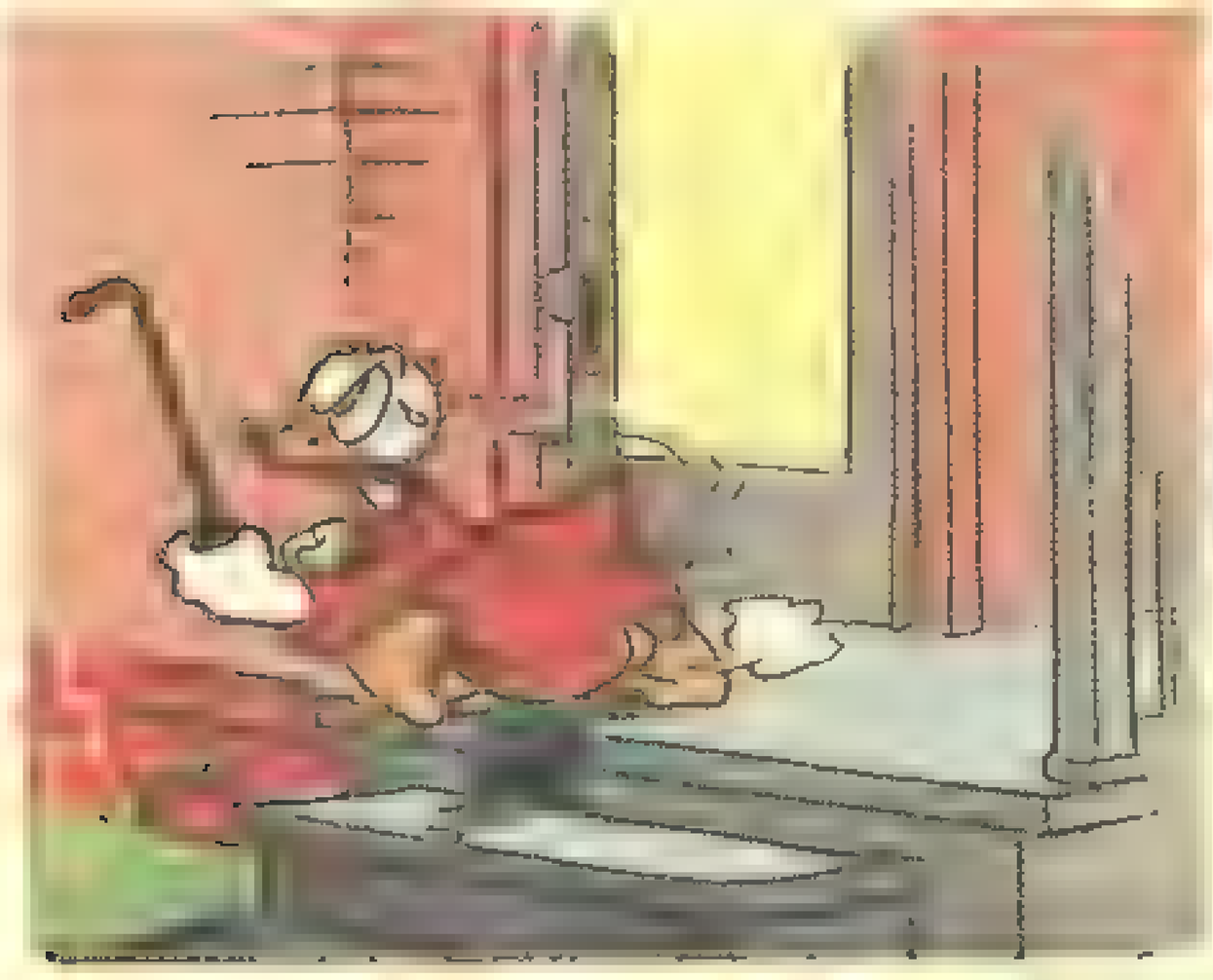


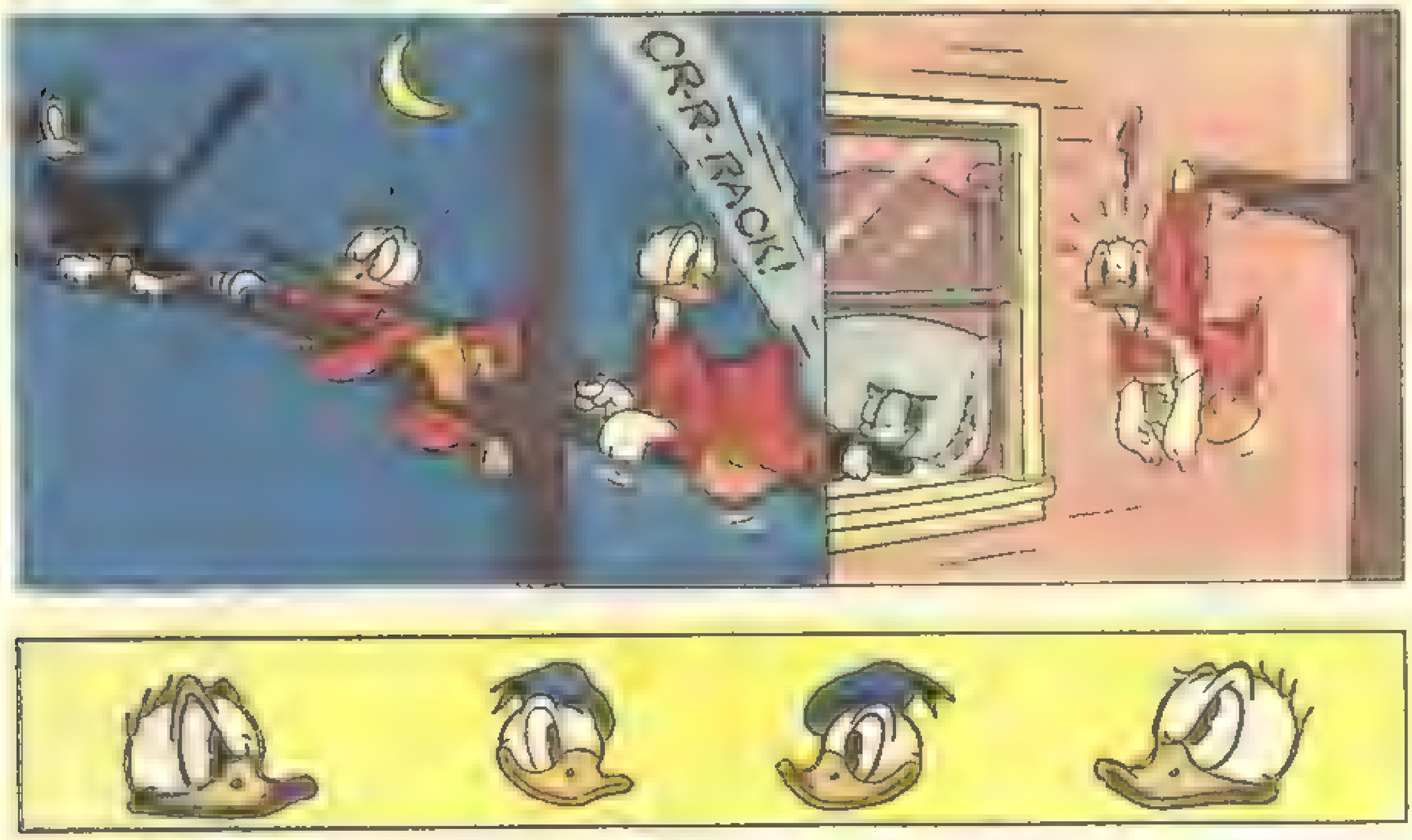







MEEROW!



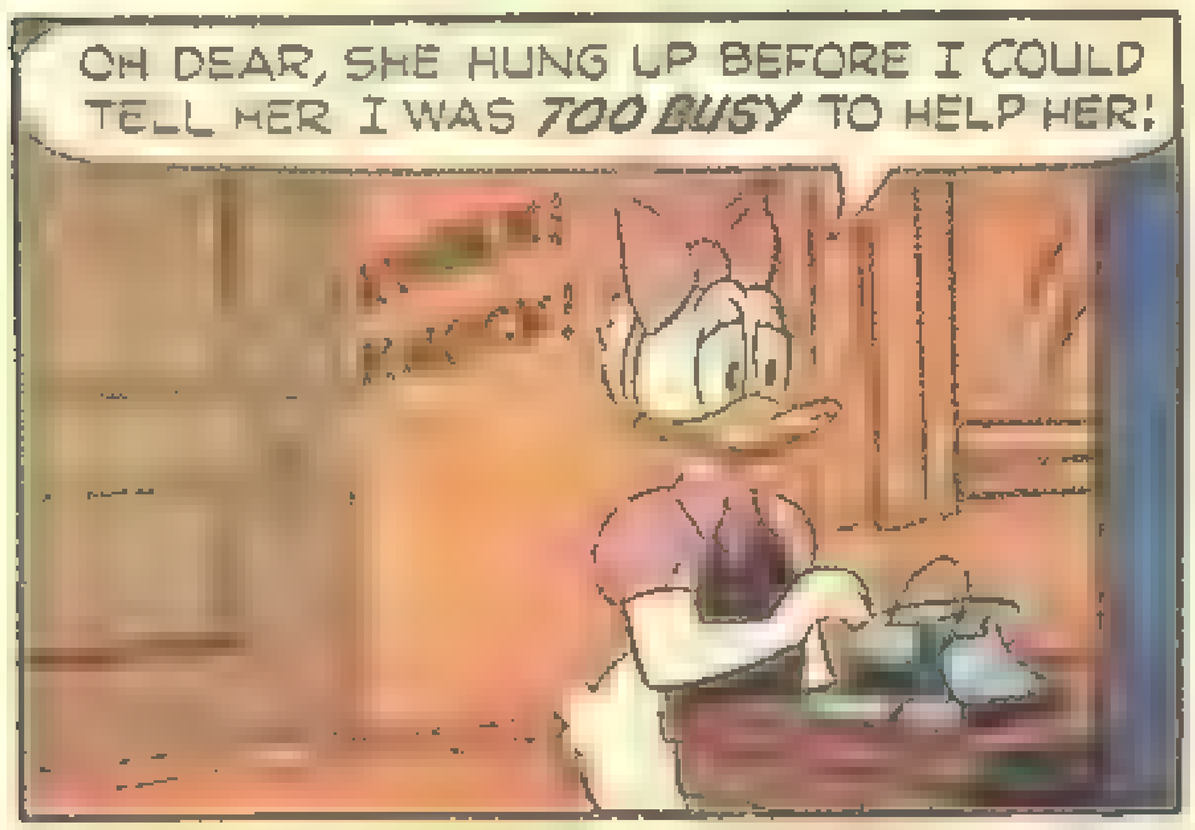

CRR-RACK!

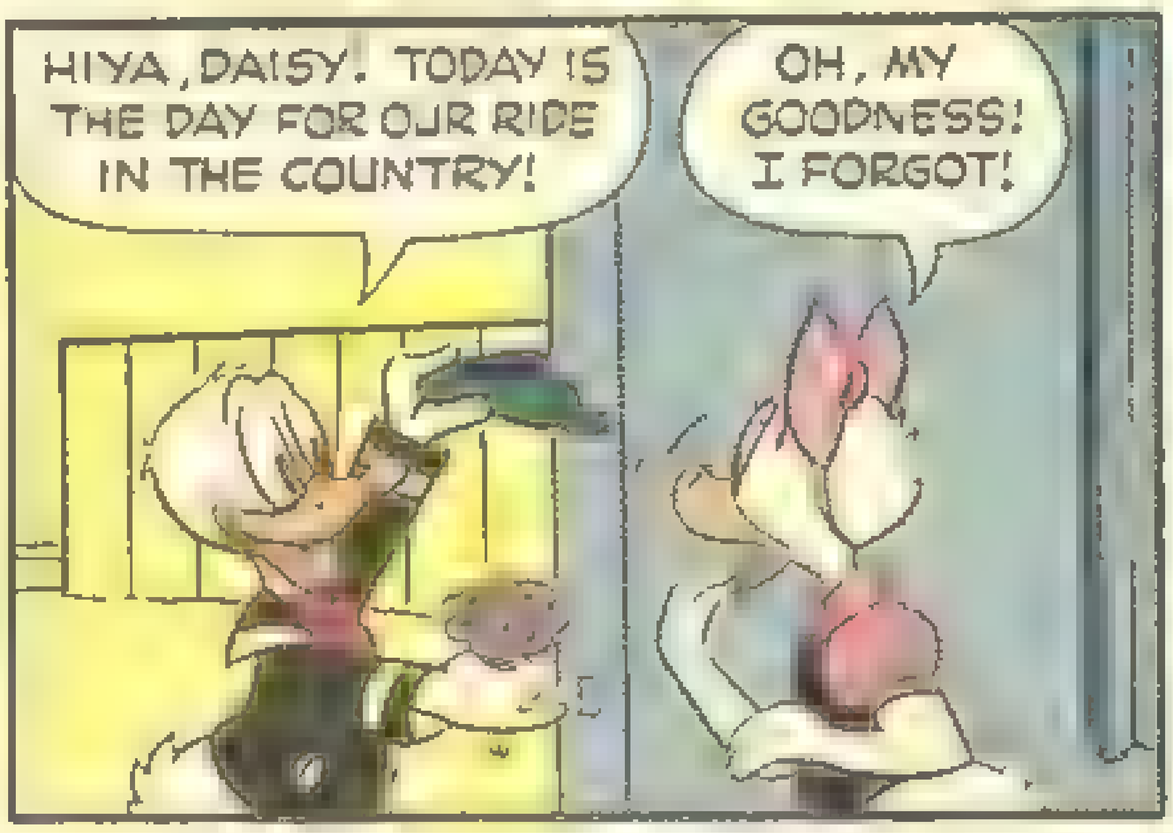
Walt Disney's

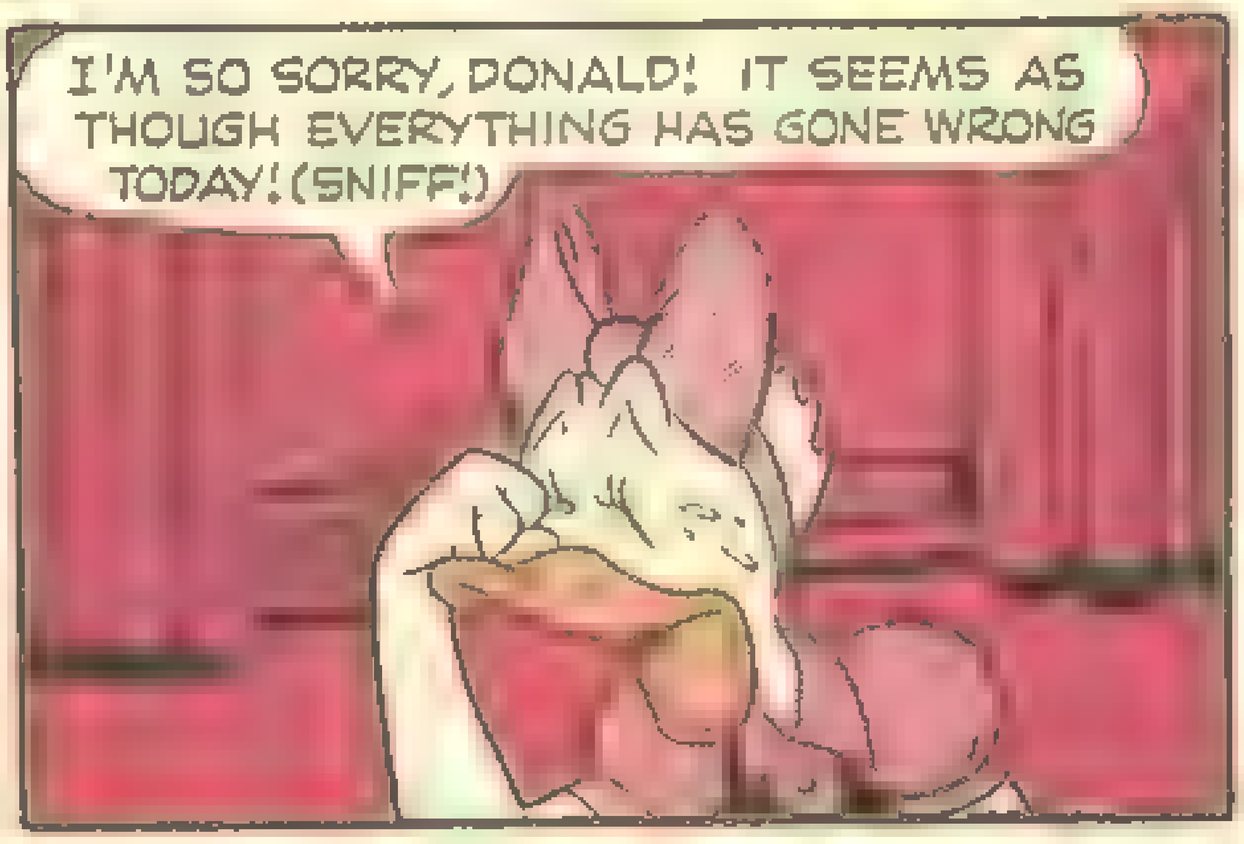
DONALD DUCK

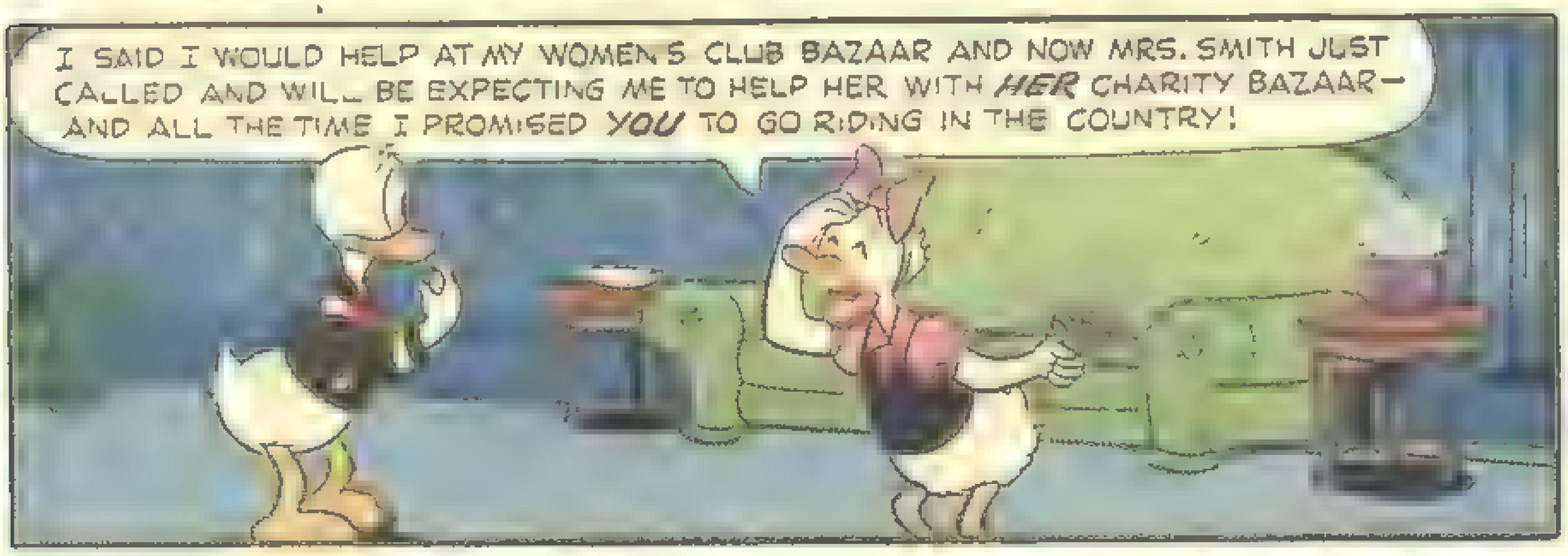
DAISY'S DOUBLE

DD 92








I SAID I WOULD HELP AT MY WOMEN'S CLUB BAZAAR AND NOW MRS. SMITH JUST CALLED AND WILL BE EXPECTING ME TO HELP HER WITH HER CHARITY BAZAAR— AND ALL THE TIME I PROMISED YOU TO GO RIDING IN THE COUNTRY!

WHY, THAT'S NO PROBLEM, DAISY. I'LL JUST CALL THEM AND TELL THEM YOU CAN'T MAKE IT!

BUT, DONALD, YOU CAN'T DO *THAT* TO *CHARITY!*

HMM! I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! I'D HAVE TROUBLE SLEEPING NIGHTS!

IF ONLY I WERE TWINS! (SOB.)

TWINS! OF COURSE! THAT'S IT.

HUH?

GANGWAY, DAISY! I'M GOING TO BORROW ONE OF YOUR DRESSES AND SOME FALSE EYELASHES!

YOU'RE *WHAT?*

AND THEN...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAISY, DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR LITTLE OL' TWIN SISTER, DIMPLES?

NOW YOU *ARE* TWINS—YOU CAN GO TO BOTH BAZAARS AT THE SAME TIME—AND HAVE THIS AFTERNOON, TO GO RIDING WITH ME!

OH, DONALD YOU *ARE* SUCH A CLEVER MAN!

PLEASE, DAISY, THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO YOUR SISTER! HEH, HEH!

NOW, YOU GO TO THE CLUB BAZAAR AND I'LL GO TO MRS. SMITH'S CHARITY BAZAAR AND WE'LL MEET BACK HERE AT NOON!

OKAY, DONALD.

TOOT. TOOT.

HI, CUTIE!

GET LOST!

SOON..

DAISY, DARLING, HOW NICE OF YOU TO HELP!

HIYA, MRS. SMITH! HOW ARE THINGS?

STORE FOR RENT

CHARITY BAZAAR

HIYA? MY, HOW CRUDE!

WELL, LET'S GET AT IT. WHAT DO I DO?

ER, UM... WELL, THE GIRLS ARE JUST SETTING UP THE BOOTHS!

GOLLY! IT'LL BE *NOON* BEFORE THEY GET DONE AT THE RATE THEY'RE GOING!

HOLD THIS!

GANGWAY, GIRLS! LET SOMEONE DO THAT WHO CAN WORK FAST!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S COME OVER DAISY! SHE WAS ALWAYS SUCH A *LADY!*

MAYBE SHE'S BEEN SEEING TOO MUCH OF THAT DONALD DUCK FELLOW!

MAYBE YOU ARE RIGHT, MARTHA! I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA THAT WILL CHANGE HER MIND ABOUT DONALD DUCK.

GOOD! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

SHORTLY...

WELL, EVERYTHING IS READY, GIRLS! NOW, WHAT'S NEXT?..

I'LL ASSIGN YOU GIRLS TO YOUR BOOTHS!

I HOPE I GET TO SELL CAKES! (SMACK!)

...AND DAISY, YOU WILL WORK IN THE *KISSING* BOOTH!

JUST WHAT I WANTED.. ER, *WHAT?*

BUT, MRS. SMITH, REALLY, I'D RATHER NOT! BESIDES, I CAN ONLY HELP TILL NOON!

COME, COME, DAISY! DON'T BE BASHFUL! IT'LL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THAT CRUDE DONALD DUCK!

CUPIDS HIDEAWAY

CUPID'S

REMEMBER, DAISY, IT'S ALL FOR CHARITY! TA,TA!

HI YA, TOOTS!

REMEMBER ME? I HONKED MY HORN AT YOU TODAY! HOW'S ABOUT A LITTLE SMACK?

YOU'VE GOT A DEAL, BUSTER!

POW!

BOY! *WHAT* A KISS! WHERE'S THE END OF THE LINE?

?

WELL, ANYTHING TO GET DONE BY NOON!

BAM!

WOW!

SAVE ME A PLACE DOWN THERE, CHARLIE!

CUPID'S HIDEA

KISS

LATER...

HEY, MRS. SMITH! IT'S ALMOST NOON! WHERE DO I PUT ALL THIS MONEY?

WHY, DAISY, YOU AMAZE ME. YOU MUST BE WORN OUT!

WELL, MY FIST *IS* A LITTLE SORE!

I'LL BE SEEING YOU! I'VE GOT TO MEET DAISY...ER, I MEAN DONALD!

HONESTLY, WHAT SHE SEES IN THAT DONALD DUCK, I'LL NEVER KNOW!

GOODNESS ME!

IT'S PROBABLY JUST AS WELL SHE LEFT! I DON'T THINK THOSE MEN COULD STAND ANOTHER KISS!

CUPID'S HIDEAWAY

AND AT TWELVE NOON...

WHERE IS DAISY? SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE BY NOW!

WELL, I'LL RUN IN AND CHANGE SO WE CAN LEAVE AS SOON AS SHE SHOWS UP!

BOY, WILL I BE GLAD TO GET *MY* CLOTHES ON AGAIN!

I BET THAT'S SOMEBODY WANTING DAISY TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANOTHER CHARITY EVENT THIS AFTERNOON! WELL, THEY CAN JUST FORGET IT!

OH, GOODNESS, I'M A LITTLE LATE! I HOPE DONALD ISN'T ANGRY! HMMM! SOUNDS LIKE MY PHONE!

HIYA, DAISY. WELL, LET'S BE ON OUR... HEY! DON'T TOUCH THAT PHONE!

BUT, DONALD, IT MAY BE IMPORTANT!

HELLO? YES, MRS. JOHNSON— OH, MY, I DID? THIS AFTERNOON? OH, DEAR... YES, I'LL BE THERE!

NOW WHAT DID YOU PROMISE THAT WILL RUIN OUR RIDE?

I FORGOT THAT I HAD PROMISED MRS. JOHNSON I WOULD HELP SERVE TEA FOR HER AFTERNOON CHARITY PARTY!

THERE IT GOES AGAIN! I'LL GET BACK INTO MY TWIN SISTER OUTFIT!

FING!

RIPIP!

OH, DEAR!

AT LEAST MAYBE WE CAN TAKE IN A MOVIE TOGETHER TONIGHT!

YES, MRS. WHITE! I'LL BE THERE!

WELL, HOW DO I LOOK? AND WHERE TO THIS TIME?

OH, YOU LOOK FINE, BUT JUST A MINUTE...

MRS. WHITE'S CHARITY IS A CONTEST, AND I ALMOST FORGOT—YOU'D BETTER TAKE THIS ALONG!

A CONTEST?

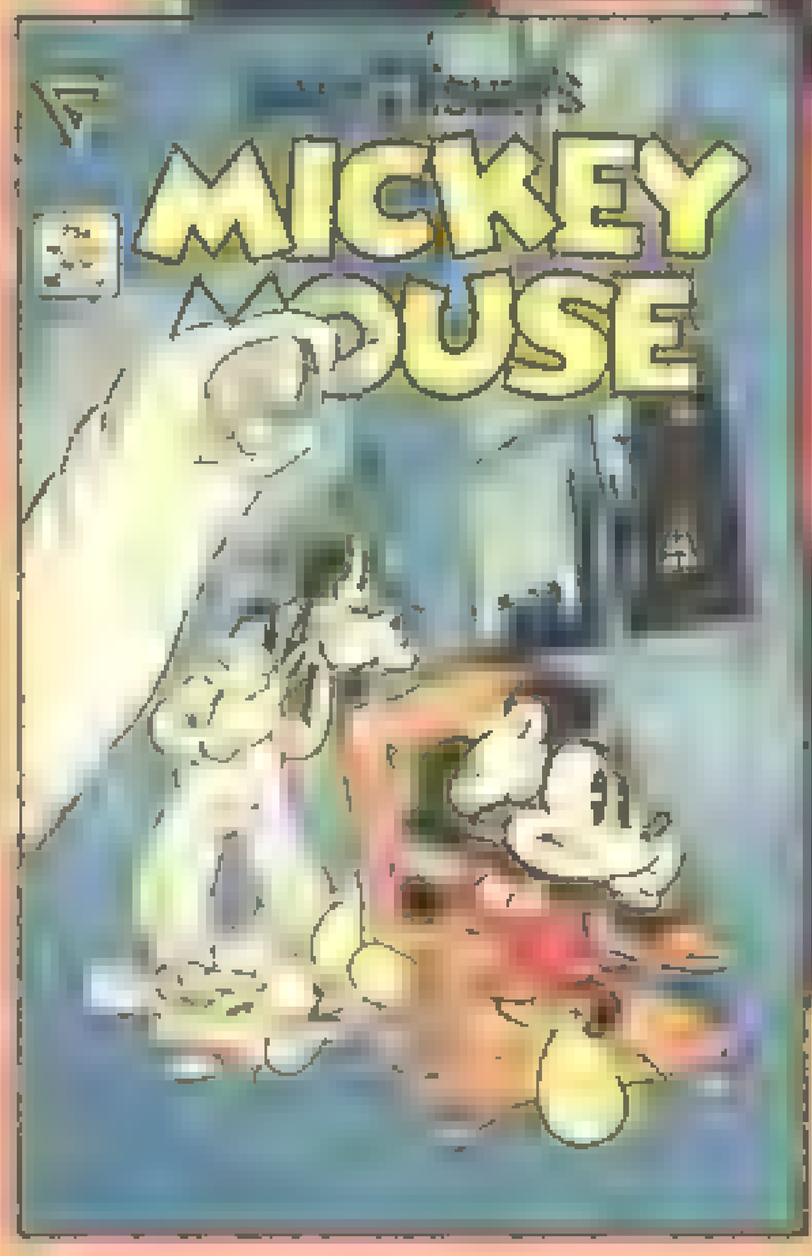
YES... A *BATHING BEAUTY* CONTEST!

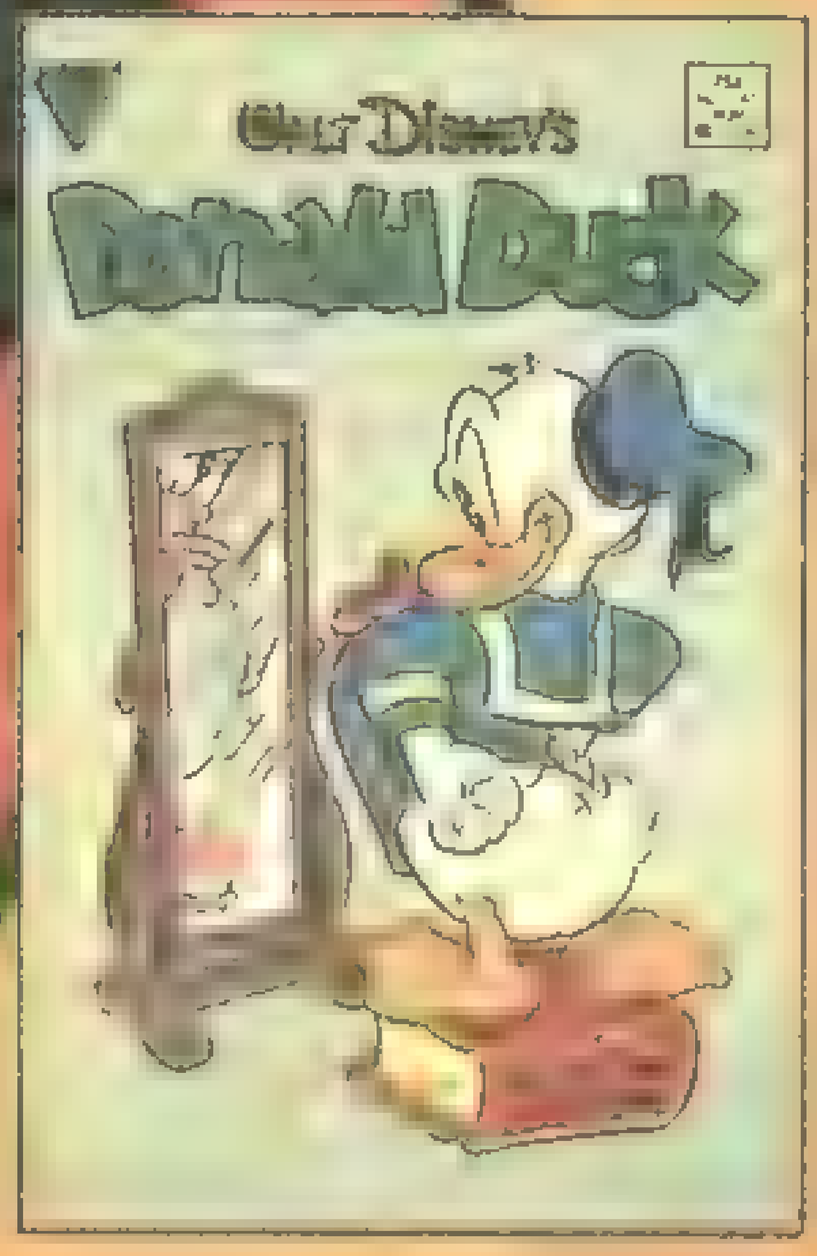
WAK!

BUT, DONALD, IT'S FOR *CHARITY!*

FROM NOW ON CHARITY BEGINS AT *HOME!* AND THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING TO STAY!

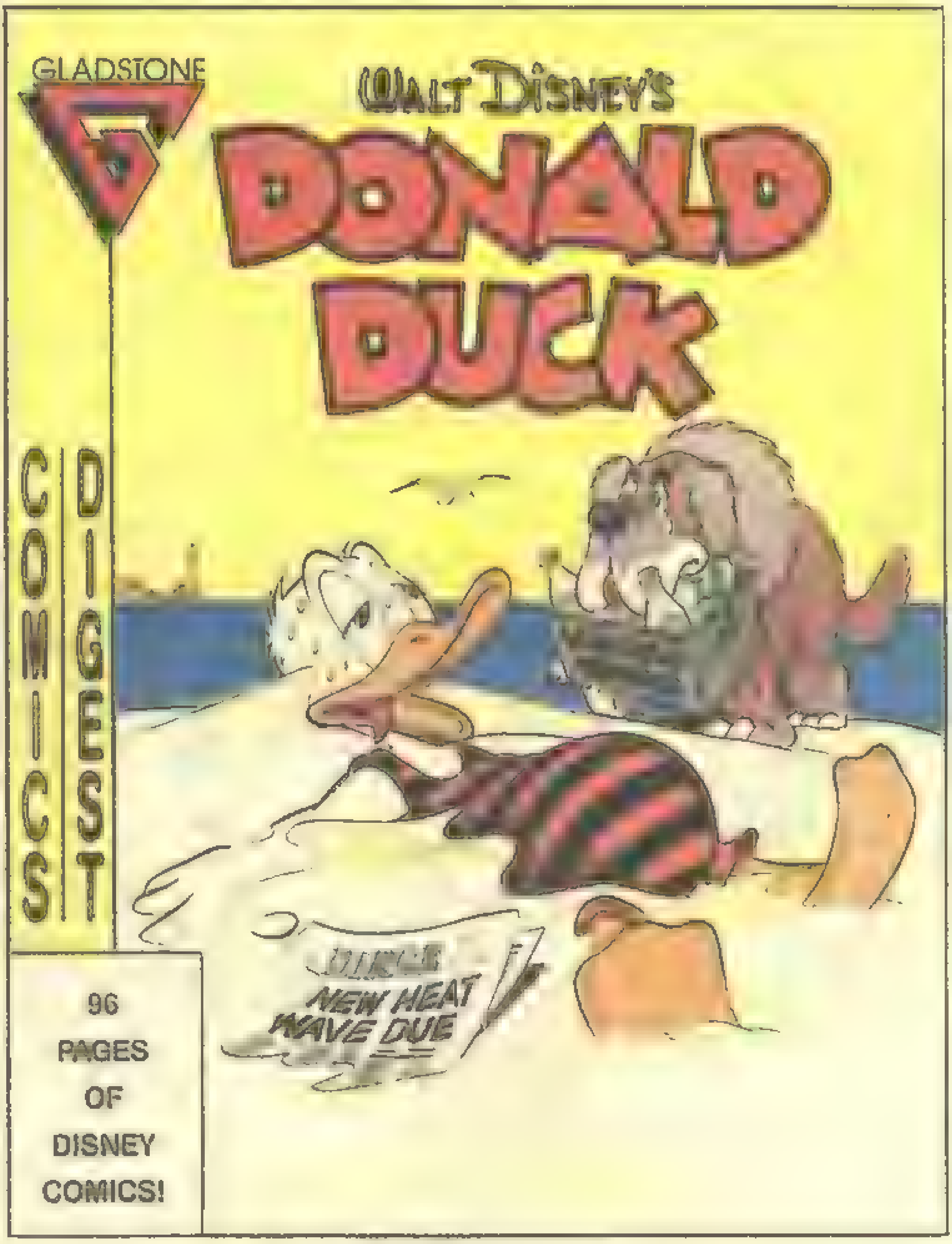
ON SALE NOW!





G 102

A POCKETFUL OF FUN!



ON SALE AUGUST 26th!

G 103

WALT DISNEY presents

Donald Duck

AT DIXON SPRING DUDE RANCH, WHERE DONALD AND HIS NEPHEWS ARE PAYING GUESTS, THE DESERT AIR QUIVERS WITH THE ROAR OF ANGRY VOICES!

IF US DUDE RANCHERS DON'T KETCH THAT HOSS THIEF, WE'LL ALL BE RUINT!

MY WHOLE INCOME IS SPENT BUYIN' NEW HOSSES!

THE RANCHERS ARE MEETIN' TODAY AT THE LADY B! CAN YOU COME OVER, BILL?

I'D LIKE TO, PETE, BUT THERE'S NOBODY I CAN LEAVE IN CHARGE OF THE PLACE HERE!

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS FOR YOU, MISTER BUCKBOARD! I KNOW HOW TO FEED AND WATER THE STOCK!

THAT'S RIGHT NICE OF YOU, DUCK!

BUT I RECKON I SHOULD STICK AROUND IN CASE THAT HOSS THIEF SHOWS UP!

I CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM, TOO!

EVER SINCE I HEARD OF THAT GUY, I'VE WANTED A CRACK AT CATCHING HIM!

WE'LL HELP TOO!

YOU GO ALONG TO THE MEETING, MR. BUCKBOARD, AND IF THERE'S ANY OF YOUR HORSES MISSING WHEN YOU GET BACK, I'LL BUY NEW ONES TO REPLACE THEM!

BROTHER, YOU'RE GOIN' TO BE SPENDIN' MONEY FAST!

OKAY, DONALD! I'LL RIDE ALONG! GOOD LUCK!

LATER! AMONG THE DOZEN SPRING HORSES ARE THREE EXTRA FANCY SORRELS!

IF THE HORSETHIEF COMES, HE'LL TRY TO TAKE THOSE SORRELS!

BUT HOW CAN HE COME AND TAKE HORSES IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?

HANGED IF I KNOW! HE'D HAVE TO RIDE UP IN PLAIN SIGHT AND LEAVE THE SAME WAY!

THERE'S A GUY RIDIN' UP NOW, UNCA' DONALD! MAYBE HE'S THE THIEF!

IF HE IS, HE'S GONG TO BE PLUMB SURPRISED WHEN HE LOOKS DOWN THE BARREL OF THIS CANNON I'VE GOT!

PUT AWAY THE ARTILLERY, PODNER! I'M HERE ON BUSINESS FROM THE LAZY B!

THAT'S WHERE THE RANCHERS ARE MEETING!

MR BUCKBOARD AND THE RANCHERS ARE FORMING A POSSE, AND THEY NEED THOSE THREE SORRELS! I'M HERE TO TAKE 'EM OVER!

OH!... WELL, THAT'S OKAY, PODNER!

THEY'RE IN THE LEFT SIDE STALLS! HELP YOURSELF!

UNCA' DONALD! HOW FAR IS IT TO THE LAZY B?

UNCA' DONALD—

SHUT UP! I'M GOING TO HOLD THE GATE OPEN FOR THIS GUY SO HE CAN GET A FAST START!

LATER!

THOSE NAGS WILL MAKE FINE MOUNTS FOR THE POSSEMEN!

UNCA' DONALD, HOW FAR IS IT TO THE LAZY 6?

I HEARD MR. BUCKBOARD SAY IT'S TWENTY MILES! WHY?

TWENTY

MILES!

MR. BUCKBOARD LEFT HERE ONLY TEN MINUTES AGO! HOW COULD HE GO THAT FAR, TALK TO THE RANCHERS, AND SEND THIS RIDER BACK—

YAK!

I'VE BEEN SWINDLED! OUT OF MY WAY! I'M GOIN' AFTER THAT HORSETHIEF WITH MY '45' A-SMOKIN!

YOU WON'T GO FAR! SOMEBODY'S LET ALL THE AIR OUT OF YOUR TIRES!

THIS IS AN INSIDE JOB! GO SEARCH THE BUILDINGS! CHECK UP ON EVERY GUEST! THERE'S BEEN DIRTY WORK AT THE WOODPILE!

I'M GOING TO CLIMB THIS WINDMILL WHERE I CAN SEE THE WHOLE LAYOUT!

NOT EVEN A WORM IS GOING TO CRAWL ON THIS PLACE WITHOUT A PORTFOLIO OF CREDENTIALS!

BOY! AM I EVER IN A JAM! I'VE GOT TO BUY SOME HORSES FOR MR. BUCKBOARD, BUT IF I LEAVE THE PLACE, THAT THIEF'LL COME AND STEAL THE WHOLE HERD!

WAL! HERE COMES ANOTHER RIDER! A GUY WITH THREE HORSES!

BELIEVE ME, THIS BIRD ISN'T GOING TO GET AWAY WITH ANY FUNNY BUSINESS!

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, POSNER! THIS CANNON MAY GO OFF!

SIMMER DOWN, BUD! SIMMER DOWN!

I ONLY STOPPED FOR A DRINK OF WATER! I'M TAKIN' THESE HOSSES TO TOWN TO SELL!

TO SELL!

SAY NO MORE, POSNER! THEY'RE SOLD! HOW MUCH?

LATER!

TWO HUNDRED APIECE FOR THOSE BAYS WASN'T BAD! THEY'RE JUST AS FANCY AS THE SORRELS! TIE 'EM IN THEIR STALLS, BOYS!

WELL, I'M OUT OF THAT JAM, AND YOU CAN BET I'LL SEE THAT EVERYTHING STAYS AS IS FROM NOW ON!

DID YOU KIDS SEARCH THE PLACE LIKE I TOLD YOU?

YES! AND THERE'S NOBODY HERE BUT US! EVEN THE COOK IS AWAY!

GOOD! YOU KIDS RUN ALONG AND PLAY! I CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS NOW!

WE'LL SEE IF THOSE NEW HORSES KNOW ANY TRICKS!

WAK! THEY'RE GONE! THEIR STALLS ARE EMPTY!

AND WE TIED 'EM HERE ONLY TWO MINUTES AGO!

UNCA' DONALD!

WE'VE GOT

BAD NEWS!

THE WHOLE PLACE IS COMBED, BUT NO TRACE OF THE HORSES IS FOUND!

I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THIS IS ALL A DREAM!

HALLO, IN THERE! ANYBODY HOME?

YOU AGAIN!

YEP! I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU MIGHT WANTA BUY THREE MORE HORSES — SORTA TAN COLOR!

YEG! I NEED THREE MORE HORSES, AND I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE GREENISH PURPLE!

AND SO ANOTHER DEAL IS SWUNG!

I'LL TIE THESE NAGS UP MYSELF, JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT THE JOB IS DONE RIGHT!

GO OUTSIDE AND WATCH FOR HORSETHIEVES IN HELICOPTERS OR ANYTHING! I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE AND KEEP AN EYE ON THESE PONIES!

WHAT COULD HAVE BECOME OF THOSE BAYS? THERE AREN'T EVEN TRACKS LEADING OUT OF THIS BARN!

SOLD TO ANY CATS

HORSES IN THE HAYLOFT! WHAT THE BLAZES?

!

!

IF THOSE THREE BAYS GOT UP HERE, THEY MUST BE PART MONKEY!

THERE ARE HORSES HERE!... WALKING THROUGH THAT DOORWAY!

WHOA!

I'LL GO IN AND GRAB 'EM!

SPLAT

THAT ISN'T A DOOR! IT'S ONLY A PICTURE OF A DOOR!

A SOUND-BOX, AND A MOVIE MACHINE! I SEE IT ALL NOW! SOMEBODY WANTED TO GET ME UP HERE FOR SOME REASON!

CLOPPITY CLOP!

IS THAT YOU IN THE HAYLOFT, UNCA' DONALD?

YES!

WELL, WE JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT THE THREE TAN-COLORED HORSES HAVE BEEN STOLEN!

THE MYSTERY IS TOO DEEP TO BE SOLVED!

SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW THAT THIEF TAKES THOSE HORSES OUT OF THIS BARN! LOOK FOR SECRET DOORS, FALSE BOARDS IN THE FLOOR!

HALLO, IN THERE! YOU WANTA BUY THREE MORE HOSSES - SPECKLED ONES THIS TIME?

YE CATS! THAT GUY AGAIN!

OKAY! OKAY! I'LL BUY YOUR THREE SPECKLED HORSES! I'M GETTING USED TO IT! LIKE BUYING EASTER EGGS!

THE HORSES ARE TIED IN THEIR STALLS!

YOU KIDS STAY HERE AND WATCH! DON'T EVEN BLINK YOUR EYES! I'M GOING TO CRAWL UNDER THE BARN AND LOOK FOR SECRET TUNNELS!

I'M GLAD THESE HORSES ARE SPECKLED! I'VE GOT A SWELL IDEA FOR SPYING ON THAT THIEF!

YOU HAVE?

SPILL IT!

THERE'S A SPECKLED HORSEHIDE IN THE SADDLE ROOM! WE CAN... BZZ! BZZ!

THE KIDS LOCK ONE OF THE HORSES IN A BOX STALL AND TIE THE [illegible] IN HIS PLACE— IN THE SPECKLED HORSEHIDE!

HURRY! THAT THIEF IS DUE BACK ANY SECOND!

NOBODY ON GUARD! JUST AS I THOUGHT— THEY'RE ALL LOOKING FOR SECRET TUNNELS!

TWEET TWEET!

LISTEN! A WHISTLE SIGNAL FROM THE HAYSTACK! HEAR IT?

LOOK! THE OTHER HORSES BIT THEIR TIE ROPES IN TWO, AND THEY'RE GOING OUT THE BACK OF THE BARN TOWARD WHERE WE HEARD THAT WHISTLE!

WELL, IF WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE REST OF THE SHOW, IT'S UP TO US TO TAG ALONG!

A SECRET TUNNEL! THERE IS A SECRET TUNNEL! IT GOES THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE HAYSTACK!

CAN YOU BEAT THAT? THOSE HORSES FOLLOW THIS THIEF AS IF THEY'RE TRAINED!

AND LOOK! THERE'S A HIDDEN TRAIL THROUGH THESE TREES AND OVER THE EDGE OF THE MESA!

A PAINT SPRAYER AND CANS OF COLORED PAINT! WE LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY MINUTE!

HOLD YOUR BREATH, MEN! WE'RE GOING TO GET A BLUE PAINT JOB!

MEANWHILE DONALD DISCOVERS THE HORSES ARE MISSING!

STOLEN AGAIN! AND THE KIDS ARE GONE, TOO! IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO THEM——

HALLO, IN THERE! WANTA BUY MORE HOSSES? BLUE ONES!

NO!

THAT GUY BACK!

I'M TIRED OF BUYING HORSES! GET THE BLAZES OUT OF MY SIGHT BEFORE I BLOW YOUR BOOT HEELS OFF!

UNCA' DONALD SURE MESSED THINGS UP! WE HAD SUCH A SWELL CHANCE TO NAB THE CROOK WITH ALL THE EVIDENCE ON HIM!

BANG! BANG!

DON'T GIVE UP!

WELL, NOSSES, LOOKS LIKE OUR RACKET HAS RUN DRY HERE! WE'LL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT RANCH!

SORREL PAINT

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BUD!

LATER! DONALD IS READY TO BUTT HIS HEAD AGAINST WALLS IN HIS DESPERATION!

THE KIDS MISSING! TWELVE HORSES STOLEN! AND HERE COMES MR. BUCKBOARD! WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL HIM?

AND THAT'S HOW IT IS, MR. BUCKBOARD! THIS GUY'D SELL ME THREE HORSES, AND IN FIVE MINUTES THEY'D BE STOLEN!

HALLO, IN THERE! WANTA BUY FOUR SORRELS?

WAK! THAT'S HIM AGAIN!

IT'S YOUR NEPHEWS!

WHAT'RE THEY UP TO?

WANTA BUY FOUR SORRELS?

STOP BEING FUNNY! I ONLY SEE THREE!

OH, BUT THERE ARE FOUR! THE OTHER ONE'S KINDA BASHFUL! YOU SEE, HE DOESN'T LIKE BEING A SORREL, AT ALL!

SORREL PAINT

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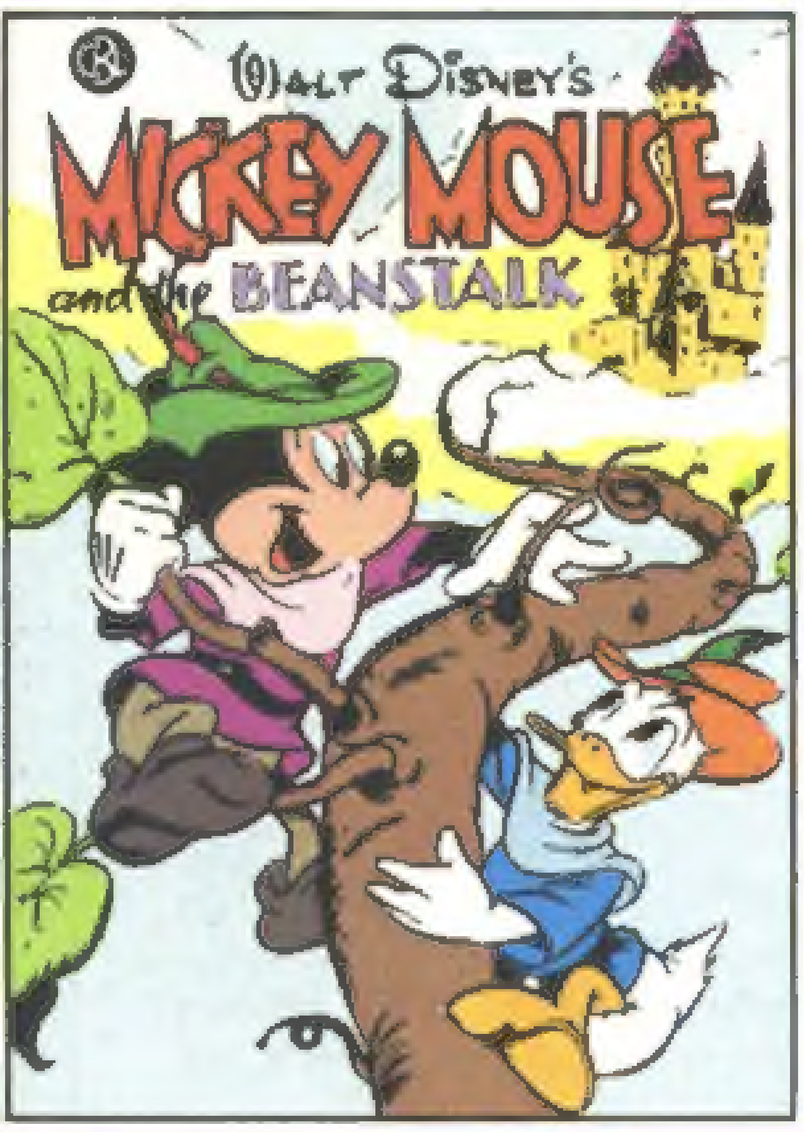

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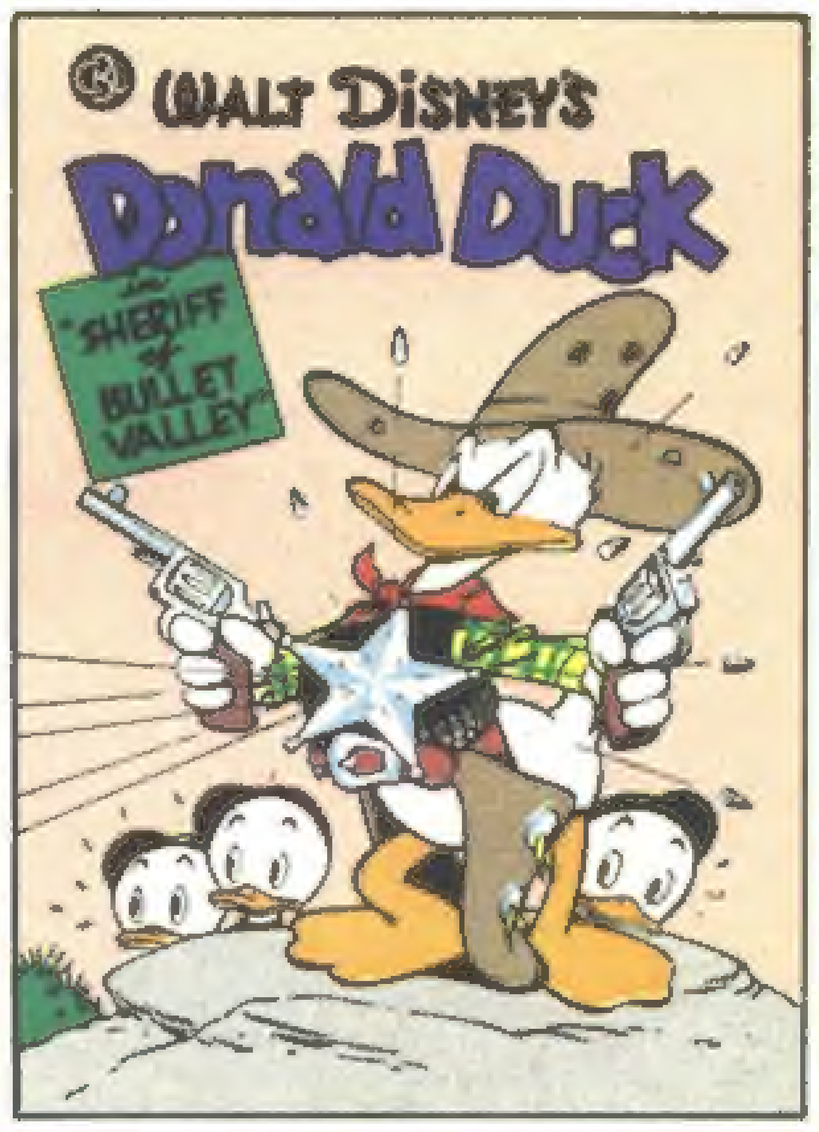

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